UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
29th meeting
held on
Thursday, 5 November 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 29th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.29
16 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

92-57513 6238S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471, A/47/564)

1. Mrs. CASTRO DE BARISH (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the countries of Central America, underscored the need for international and multilateral action to eradicate drug trafficking. Owing to its geographic situation, Central America was the first frontier for combating drug trafficking in order to protect the young people in the countries most affected by drug consumption. The region therefore must be given sufficient financial, technological and logistical support by those countries in order to cope with the problem, particularly at a time when drug traffickers were using more sophisticated methods in their operations. Aware of the danger that their legitimate institutions might be undermined, the Central American countries had identified international drug trafficking as a major threat to their security.

2. The consumer countries must become more involved in the fight against drug trafficking and provide greater support to the countries directly engaged in that struggle. It was time to focus on specific steps and implement the agreements already concluded. The Central American countries had amended their legislation and were applying the norms adopted by the United Nations and stepping up international and interregional cooperation. At the political level, that cooperation was reflected in compliance with the major international agreements in the field. Accordingly, it was hoped that the General Assembly would soon be in a position to enable the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) to meet the numerous challenges facing it.

3. She underscored the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), which had jointly put forward important recommendations on assistance to Governments in harmonizing legislation on drugs, strengthening the administration of justice, training officials, promoting preventive education, compiling statistical information and drawing up international drug control agreements.

4. The United States of America and the European Community, which were the main drug markets, must show a greater readiness to support anti-drug efforts in developing countries, particularly those in Central America, which served as transit routes. Lastly, she stressed the importance of the work by the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD) and the other regional institutes in Africa, Asia and Europe, as well as the need to provide them with the necessary means to carry out their programmes effectively.

5. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia) said that his country, which had suffered all the consequences of drug trafficking and drug-related terrorism, stressed the importance of the principle of shared responsibility on the part of all States in dealing with those problems. The time had come to establish clear goals and commitments in order to determine responsibility and guide political action to combat drug trafficking. The United Nations, therefore, should set global, regional and individual objectives to be achieved in that regard. Colombia proposed that in 1993 a resumed session of the General Assembly should be held at the highest political level in order to review implementation of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and other instruments in the field.

6. While substantial progress had been made in combating drug abuse and the United Nations had dealt with the question in an appropriate manner, there were areas where more of an effort was required. There was a need to combat drug trafficking through an overall approach, attacking production, demand, consumption, money laundering, diversion of chemical precursors and the illegal sale of weapons.

7. The problem must be tackled in a balanced way. Policies to reduce drug consumption through rehabilitation of addicts, creation of jobs and other measures in consumer countries must be strengthened without reducing interdiction in the producer countries. Interdiction policies must be coordinated and stepped up. Colombia had offered to cooperate in that field and had signed a number of agreements on the subject with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Careful consideration should be given to the results achieved through the rehabilitation policies adopted by some industrialized countries where treatment involved use of controlled drug doses. Those policies might lead to a slackening in punitive measures and create new corridors for the entry and consumption of drugs in those countries. Furthermore, efforts must be doubled to combat the alliance of drug mafias seeking to promote mass consumption of drugs in Asia and Europe. Accordingly, the Global Programme of Action should be evaluated in order to redefine priorities and give new guidelines to UNIDCP.

8. His delegation noted with satisfaction the good work carried out by UNIDCP, particularly in coordinating the various United Nations programmes concerned and providing legal assistance in the form of advice and training for legal officials.

9. Owing to lack of reliable information, little headway had been made in evaluating the economic and social impact of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering. A world-wide information system should be established in order to have sound data on the entire cycle of drug trafficking. The submission of the report on the activities of the various agencies and programmes covering an entire calendar year represented a lost opportunity with regard to the information submitted to the General Assembly. Receiving at the end of 1993 the report on the activities carried out in 1992 would diminish the possibility of taking the necessary timely decisions.

(Mr. Jaramillo, Colombia)

10. The contacts initiated between UNIDCP, the various Bretton Woods institutions, particularly the World Bank, and regional banks were especially important. In view of the clear link between drug trafficking and poverty, alternative development and trade opportunities were decisive in order to overcome the drug problem. The Programme should further increase its coordination with the World Bank, GATT, the International Monetary Fund and UNCTAD in order to find alternatives for the developing countries most affected by drug production and to devise innovative financial mechanisms. The countries that had adopted the 1990 Cartagena Declaration had met in 1992 in order to evaluate the programmes, identify new areas and increase cooperation through a set of anti-drug strategies. With the necessary political will, real progress was being made. In that connection, he urged the entire international community, particularly the European Community and Asian countries, to firmly support that effort.

11. Ms. STROM (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that UNIDCP represented a new approach which aimed to ensure coherent action and coordination in the fight against drugs. The Nordic delegations were pleased to note that, having overcome its initial period of adjustment and administrative uncertainty, UNIDCP was now in a position to play the leading and coordinating role which was its mandate.

12. A vast range of international activities was required to tackle the problems related to narcotic drugs, which transcended national borders and were also cross-sectoral. In order to be globally effective, particularly in view of its limited resources, UNIDCP should therefore act as a catalyst by cooperating with other international organizations, non-governmental organizations, bilateral programmes and national institutions. While the Nordic countries welcomed the efforts already made in that direction, they intended to continue stressing that a more comprehensive approach could be attained only if such organizations responded openly to those new cooperation initiatives.

13. International conventions were important weapons in the fight against narcotic drugs. It was equally important, however, that they should form the basis for anti-narcotics legislation in those countries which had ratified them. It was therefore encouraging that more countries had now signed those conventions and that even non-signatories had adopted legislation in compliance with the commitments which they contained. None the less, the Nordic countries wished to draw special attention to the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; internationally, there was a growing problem of the abuse of those substances, which were also being exported in considerable quantities from the industrialized world to the developing countries. The Nordic countries therefore urged all Governments in the industrialized countries - some of which were major manufacturers and exporters of psychotropic substances - to adopt legislation in order to comply with the Convention. At the same time, they reiterated their appeal for those countries which had not yet done so to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

(Ms. Strom, Sweden)

14. The increase in production, illegal drug trafficking, drug abuse and new markets demonstrated that the overall situation with regard to narcotic drugs was deteriorating. The Nordic countries disagreed with the view that, such being the case, drugs were now an inevitable part of society and the struggle against them was futile. On the contrary, the seriousness of the situation presented a challenge both to individual States and to the international community as a whole, and all efforts should be mobilized to fight the problem and reduce demand. Despite its prominent role, the United Nations could not replace action by national, regional and subregional authorities. The Nordic countries themselves cooperated closely on prevention, treatment and law enforcement, which greatly enhanced the subregional effects of the struggle against narcotic drugs.

15. That struggle, however, would remain ineffective without adequate resources: the financing of United Nations activities therefore required urgent reform. In that respect, she recalled the Nordic proposals for a system composed of negotiated pledges - in contrast to the current voluntary system of funding - which would be more effective by providing a longer perspective. The proposals also included matters related to governance, which was relevant to UNIDCP. The Nordic countries would therefore like to see further consideration of the subject in the appropriate forums.

16. Individual nations should also assume responsibility for limiting the problems arising from the illicit production, trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs, for which the social and economic costs were significant world wide. The importance of dealing effectively with those multifaceted problems at all levels should not be neglected in the current discussions concerning the system-wide reform of the United Nations.

17. Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that the international community had now reached fairly unanimous agreement on how to deal with the drug problem, while the practice of allocating blame for the drug problem to individual countries had been replaced by the principle of shared responsibility. The various instruments ensuing from that growing consensus provided the framework for joint international efforts. Moreover, together with the establishment of UNIDCP, they demonstrated the will of the international community to address the drug problem. In so doing, it was imperative that States should abide by their obligations under those instruments and avoid any unilateral measures which could hamper international cooperation. In the fight against drugs, cultural and social differences should be among the issues considered, as should the varying levels of economic and social development and the link between socio-economic deterioration and drug production in the developing countries. Illicit trafficking and increasing crime rates were also closely related. No efforts should be spared in devising and implementing the concerted international action needed to respond to the immense task presented by the drug problem. Brazil believed, for instance, that cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice should be enhanced.

(Mr. Bahadian, Brazil)

18. The 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and the establishment of UNIDCP represented important contributions to the efforts to combat drugs, to which Brazil naturally attached the utmost importance. Its own administrative and enforcement mechanisms had been considerably strengthened, and a policy document now being drawn up reflected the provisions of that particular Convention, which it had ratified in 1991. Brazil urged those States which had not already done so to ratify or accede to the Convention. It welcomed the initiatives for cooperation on drug prevention and control that were being taken in various States, among them Uruguay.

19. The fact that the situation concerning drug abuse was steadily declining in many parts of the world was abundantly clear in the Secretary-General's report (A/47/471). He wished to highlight three of the points covered in that report: first, concerning the encouragement to international financial institutions to introduce a "drug dimension" in their economic and sectoral work and lending strategies, full attention should be given to determining the socio-economic consequences of reducing narcotic production and supply, and the impact of crop and income substitution. Secondly, the report rightly focused on the need to strengthen drug prevention, rehabilitation and treatment, aspects which had been properly considered by UNIDCP. As acknowledged in the report, an interdisciplinary approach aimed at social reintegration would produce more favourable results than repressive or regulatory actions alone could do. Thirdly, the report should have dealt more specifically with the issue of controlling the chemicals used in illicit drug production. In accordance with the 1988 Convention, States should be encouraged to establish monitoring and control systems to prevent the diversion from licit purposes of chemical substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
In conclusion, he said that Brazil was ready to take part in international efforts to build on the progress achieved.

20. Ms. FENG Cui (China) said that drug production, trafficking and abuse were steadily increasing world wide, despite the encouraging and gratifying results achieved by the international community in its efforts to combat the problem. Drug-related violence, crime and disease were also on the increase, causing serious socio-economic and political difficulties. Indeed, the whole of human civilization and stable social development were jeopardized by the spread of drugs. Further efforts were therefore required to adopt more effective measures to crack down on all drug-related crime.

21. In that connection, she emphasized three points. First, international cooperation in carrying out concerted action should be strengthened, as combating drugs was a shared - rather than individual - responsibility. Such cooperation should be in compliance with the United Nations Charter and international law, and on the basis of mutual respect for State sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Secondly, the reduction and elimination of illicit drug production would not

(Ms. Feng Cui, China)

be possible without the reduction and elimination of demand. If the drug-consuming countries did not fulfil their obligation to take earnest measures in that direction, the joint efforts undertaken by the international community would not have the expected results. Thirdly, drug control policies should be integrated with development policies to encompass the eradication and subsequent substitution of narcotic crops proposed by UNIDCP, which merited full support from the international community. For socio-economic reasons, developing countries encountered more difficulties in combating drugs, and should therefore receive appropriate financial and technical support from the international community.

22. In the past, China had implemented effective measures to eradicate the scourge of opium from the country. In recent years, however, drugs had infiltrated into China via Hong Kong, which was used as a transit point by international drug traffickers. Her Government had therefore introduced firm measures to deal with the country's new drug problem. They included strengthening drug control agencies throughout the country; a legal crack-down on drug abuse and drug-related criminal activities; awareness and educational campaigns aimed at young people in particular; implementation of a policy intended to control illicit trafficking and drug abuse and eradicate illicit crops; and the provision of medical treatment and psychological therapy for drug addicts. As a result, the number of drug cases handled by law enforcement agencies had risen by 120 per cent since 1990, while the amount of heroin seized had risen by over 40 per cent since 1991. Such statistics indicated the effectiveness of the work being done by the Chinese authorities to control transboundary drug trafficking and protect China and the international community from the drug menace.

23. In addition to its efforts to control drugs in China, her Government attached great importance to enhancing international cooperation in combating the problem. To that end, it had supported and participated in cooperative programmes initiated by UNIDCP. It believed that those cooperative relations would be maintained and enhanced, and would continue its efforts to make new contributions in the struggle against drug abuse for the sake of human civilization and progress.

24. Mr. MELAMED (Israel) said that no society could afford to carry the burden of fighting narcotic drugs alone. Though no illegal drugs were produced in Israel, intensive drug activity along its northern borders posed a danger. The number of drug addicts in Israel had increased significantly over the past decade. Lebanon was considered the world's largest producer of hashish. Opium cultivation had recently begun there as well, and some of that product arrived in Israel, Egypt and other countries of the region. Israel would continue to make every effort to curb the smuggling of drugs into its territory from neighbouring countries, and was ready to cooperate with nations, both within and outside the region, in the fight against drug trafficking. It would welcome international assistance in developing a better system of prevention, including cooperation at the points of departure or

(Mr. Melamed, Israel)

transit of drugs before they arrived in Israel. An international effort must be launched to offer Lebanese farmers an opportunity to grow alternative crops to replace drug production. The international campaign against drugs also must include specific measures to protect transit countries.

25. Israel had addressed the drug issue on several fronts, including preventive education, public information, treatment and rehabilitation, law enforcement, and active international cooperation. It was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and had signed the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. It had taken steps to bring its domestic legislation into line with the 1988 Convention, and was advancing further legislation to modify the law relating to money-laundering. It had supported the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and the Global Programme of Action.

26. Israel had established a national Anti-Drug Authority under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister. Through the Authority, Israel had improved interdiction along its borders and was promoting more severe sentences for drug offenders, especially dealers. Prevention programmes were being conducted in an increasing number of schools, and treatment and rehabilitation infrastructure had been improved. Israel had established bilateral cooperation with other nations in that area, and had hosted an international conference on drug abuse.

27. His delegation believed that the international community should adopt a more severe approach to heroin use. It also encouraged the establishment of a central data system in each country.

28. As the prospects for peace in the Middle East improved, it must be remembered that peace was made not only between Governments, but also between people. In the spirit of peaceful coexistence between neighbours, his delegation called on the Governments of Lebanon and Syria to assume their full responsibilities and fight with determination against the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs.

29. Mr. ARRIA (Venezuela) said that, although no narcotic drugs were produced or processed in Venezuela, unfortunately, it had become a major transit country as a result of the establishment of free trade with Colombia. The destabilizing effect of drug trafficking linked with organized crime and subversive movements was extremely dangerous for countries such as his, whose fragility became even more apparent when they were forced to combat drug traffickers without adequate preparation, strategy or resources.

30. The inadequacy of international drug control efforts called for a re-evaluation of strategies. It was quite likely that the international community was not receiving support for its efforts from countries involved in drug consumption, money-laundering and production of chemical precursors. Other States should follow the example of Italy, which had made available

(Mr. Arria, Venezuela)

sufficient resources and had offered assistance to developing countries in their fight against drug trafficking.

31. His delegation shared the gratitude expressed by many speakers to the Executive Director of UNIDCP, who had assumed an enormous responsibility, comparable only to that of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Drug control activities would affect all of humanity - rich and poor, young and old - economically, socially and politically. Yet the Programme had been allocated an annual budget of only $80 million to fulfil its monumental tasks. Moreover, the Executive Director had reported that he had been unable to obtain the necessary authorizations for the administrative integration of the various bodies which had made up the previous drug control programme, because of the restructuring of the Secretariat. The greatest tribute that could be paid to the Executive Director and UNIDCP would be a speedy solution to the institutional problems.

32. The international community must be alerted to the proven link between drug trafficking and armed movements, as well as their growing ability to corrupt and destabilize societies and economies. The joint research programme being carried out by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University on the socio-economic and political impact of production, trade and use of illicit narcotic drugs should be highlighted.

33. In view of the limited resources available, UNIDCP should focus its activities in order to achieve the maximum return. For example, it could serve as a clearing-house for experience and initiatives in all aspects of drug control and in the drafting of model legislation. The communications media represented another valuable ally in the struggle, and the Programme could give greater attention to public awareness programmes such as the campaign conducted by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America in the United States.

34. The representative of the European Community had made reference to three current drug control initiatives in Europe and to a financial action group established by the seven major industrialized nations to address the problem of money-laundering and organized crime. Those initiatives were the joint response of nations which, with vision and political will, were taking steps to protect their citizens. He expressed appreciation for the willingness of the European Community to cooperate with developing countries.

35. In the fight against drug trafficking, it was imperative to maintain respect for the sovereignty and laws of States. No country, however powerful, could claim to be the conscience of the international community. In that regard, the recent decision by the Supreme Court of the United States regarding the kidnapping of drug traffickers outside that country was an attempt to legalize an abusive practice which was unacceptable to his Government. Far from facilitating and stimulating international cooperation, such a practice would obstruct it.

36. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) said that the problem of drug abuse was becoming increasingly complex and international in scope. Despite encouraging developments and decisive actions, the situation remained serious. UNIDCP had been established in 1991 in response to the need for a single, integrated body to coordinate the efforts of the international community to respond to the problem, and to be a catalyst for action. Czechoslovakia had participated in the thirty-fifth session of the newly-expanded Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a member, and had supported the new Programme. A spirit of cooperation had characterized that session, and the basic documents had been adopted by consensus. The resolutions adopted there would enable the Commission to become more action-oriented and would strengthen its role as the principal policy-making body in the field of drug control.

37. Czechoslovakia had repeatedly emphasized its determination to participate fully in international and regional efforts to combat drug abuse. Its main priorities were to reduce illicit transit of narcotic drugs through its territory to Western Europe and Scandinavia; to strengthen its services for prevention, medical care and education; and to equip its drug control agencies. Departing from the principle that prevention and treatment were more effective than repression, his Government was preparing a national action-oriented anti-drug programme designed to reduce demand and strengthen rehabilitation services. It was also drafting anti-drug legislation, formulating programmes for cooperation between various federal and national agencies, and carrying out a survey in cooperation with the World Health Organization.

38. Located on the Balkan route, his country attached great importance to regional cooperation in combating drugs and had taken a number of steps in that regard. It had been part of a fact-finding mission of the Commission of the European Communities investigating possibilities for cooperation; had participated actively in various regional programmes and had concluded a number of bilateral agreements. In March 1992, in the framework of the regional Balkan route programme, his Government had agreed to participate in a drug law enforcement assistance programme, in cooperation with UNIDCP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and was currently discussing requirements for implementing that programme.

39. Czechoslovakia would continue to meet in full its obligations under the international drug conventions.

40. Mr. JALLOW (Gambia) said it was clear that the international community accorded high priority to the struggle against drug abuse, a twentieth-century plague from which no country or generation was spared. Even countries traditionally free from drugs had fallen prey during the last 10 years to a host of drug-related problems. Law enforcement agencies were hard pressed to keep up with changing patterns of supply, distribution, trafficking and consumption, and to halt the spread of drug use.

(Mr. Jallow, Gambia)

41. The establishment of UNIDCP and the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, which his delegation fully supported, demonstrated the international community's commitment to the war on drugs. In that connection, it was important for States which had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. His delegation hoped that the United Nations Decade aginst Drug Abuse, 1991-2000, would help to focus even greater international attention on the drug menace and the need for concerted action to combat it.

42. Drug use in the Gambia had for a long time been limited to recreational use of marijuana. However, a drastic change had taken place in the last few years: as a result of shifting patterns in drug distribution, the Gambia had become an important transshipment point for narcotic drugs moving from West Africa to Europe and the United States, and had also become part of the West African drug network. That had lead to an alarming increase in drug trafficking and abuse in the Gambia itself, giving rise to serious social consequences, including an increase in violent crime, breakdown of family units, and overburdened treatment programmes and law enforcement services. The Government simply did not have enough resources to combat the growing drug problem, which was particularly acute among the country's youth. Priority needs included increasing security at air- and seaports; training security personnel; setting up drug analysis laboratories; and improving treatment and rehabilitation services.

43. In spite of its limited resources, the Gambia continued to develop national anti-drug programmes. It was reviewing the Dangerous Drugs Act, passed in 1935, in the light of contemporary developments, and planned to establish an effective administrative structure to combat drug abuse. It would also be taking measures with regard to the confiscation of earnings derived from drug trafficking. In its war on drugs, in which its national drug control agency would play a central role, the Gambia would greatly appreciate assistance from the United Nations system drug control agencies, and from governmental and non-governmental organizations.

44. Mr. BURCUOGLU (Turkey) said that despite international, national and regional success in combating them, drug abuse and illicit trafficking continued to be a global threat, often linked to terrorist activities and illegal arms trading, and called for a vigorous and concerted international response. Such a response had to be directed equally to all aspects of the problem: supply, demand, illicit trafficking, rehabilitation of users, and money-laundering.

45. UNIDCP had already enabled the United Nations to play a central role in the struggle against drugs. His country had helped to establish the Programme and applauded its efforts. However, to fulfil its mandate properly, the Programme needed a solid and viable financial base. Accordingly, it should be granted a greater share of the regular budget and more generous voluntary contributions. Moreover, recruitment of Programme personnel should be based, as far as possible, on the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

(Mr. Burcuoglu, Turkey)

46. The diversion of chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances continued to be a matter of serious concern. In Turkey, seizures of acetic anhydride coming from Western Europe had risen from less than 1 ton in 1989 to 27 tons in 1991. He urged the countries concerned to improve their control over production and delivery of precursor and essental chemicals and, if they had not yet done so, to ratify or accede to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. In that connection, his delegation welcomed resolution 1992/29 of the Economic and Social Council on measures to prevent the diversion of precursor and essential chemicals to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

47. Turkey was concerned at the prospect of legalizing the possession and use of certain drugs for non-medical purposes. It joined with the International Narcotics Control Board in rejecting categorically any such policy, which could only encourage drug trafficking and abuse and undermine drug control efforts.

48. His country was firmly opposed to the proliferation of opiate sources, and associated itself with resolution 1992/30 of the Economic and Social Council on the demand for and supply of opiates for medical and scientific needs. In resolving that issue, due regard should be given to the economic concerns of the traditional producer countries.

49. Turkey maintained effective control of the licit production of poppy straw for the extraction of alkaloids and, in that connection, requested the support of the consumer countries. In spite of the attendant economic losses, his country had halted opium production because of the risk that the product might be diverted to illicit uses. His country had organized in September 1991 a training course for nine countries on the industrial use of medicinal plants and aromatic substances, which had encouraged the participants to initiate economically viable projects with a view to rural development and the generation of supplementary income.

50. Located on the Balkan route, Turkey was faced with an increasing amount of illicit transit, and had mobilized substantial resources to meet the challenge. To that end, it cooperated in various bilateral, regional and international efforts. It had also signed in June 1992, as part of the regional Balkan route programme, an agreement with UNIDCP, which would help strengthen Turkey's services for detection and law enforcement.

51. His Government had always attached particular importance to cooperation among law enforcement agencies. It supported the efforts of UNIDCP in the Balkan region, including the establishment of a regional information network on detection and suppression of drug-related crimes, the drug law enforcement training project and the drug laboratory project. It had also signed bilateral cooperation agreements with a number of countries.

(Mr. Burçuoglu, Turkey)

52. His Government currently complied with several provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, particularly in the area of precursor substances. Ratification of the Convention was currently on the agenda of the Turkish Parliament.

53. In conclusion, he noted that the increase in drug-related crime called for effective cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Control.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

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THIRD COMMITTEE
30th meeting
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Thursday, 5 November 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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OTHER MATTERS

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Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.30
30 November 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

92-57543 6386S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 93: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.19)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.19

1. The CHAIRMAN said that Australia, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Peru, Ukraine and Venezuela had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.19*, entitled, "Crime prevention and criminal justice".

2. Mrs. KAMAL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the provisions of the draft resolution would be applied within the existing resources approved by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. As had already been indicated to the Economic and Social Council at its 1992 substantive session, in the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolutions, which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had recommended for adoption by the Council (E/1992/30/Add.1), the question of the resources and structure of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs would be considered in the context of the revised estimates under section 21 of the draft programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Those revised estimates, which would be submitted to the Fifth Committee at the current session, did not include proposals for the allocation of additional funds.

3. Mr. FERRARIN (Italy) said that it had been decided to delete paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

4. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.19, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.21, L.22 and L.23)

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the draft resolutions under that item did not have any programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21

6. The CHAIRMAN said that Belize, Guinea-Bissau, Lithuania, Malaysia, Myanmar, Panama, Peru, Philippines, St. Kitts and Nevis and Samoa had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21 entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat".

7. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.21 was adopted without a vote.

8. Mr. TISSOT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation continued to consider the detailed examination of that agenda item a matter for the Fifth Committee when dealing with personnel questions. However, it recognized that the status of women in the Secretariat was a subject for continuing concern. His delegation would like to see a higher overall participation rate of women in the Secretariat as well as more women in senior posts through ensuring equality and opportunity for all candidates and the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Enriching women's job opportunities at every level was equally important as enabling women to reach senior levels; that would improve the quality of the pool of female middle-management personnel and thereby supply a stream of female candidates for senior-level appointments. He hoped that the post of a focal point for women in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management would enable the Secretariat to take positive measures for ensuring that women who met the required criteria were on every short-list for senior- and middle-management appointments. Where women were not on such lists, recruiters should specifically ask Member States to nominate suitably qualified women.

9. Mrs. SEMAFUMU (Uganda) said that, while her delegation had not wanted to block consensus, it wished to express its reservations concerning paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. The paragraph should have urged the Secretary-General not only to promote but also to appoint more women, which would benefit women from least developed countries that had low representation in the Secretariat.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22

10. The CHAIRMAN said that Belarus, Ecuador, Egypt, Malawi, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, Samoa and Turkey had joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22, entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

11. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.22, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23

12. Mr. QURESHI (Pakistan) said that there were two amendments to draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23, entitled "Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women". The words "of China" should be inserted after the phrase "appreciation to the Government" in the fourth line of paragraph 8. In addition, paragraph 25 should be deleted and the numbering of the subsequent paragraphs corrected.

13. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.23, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.

AGENDA ITEM 91: ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1

14. The CHAIRMAN said that draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1, entitled "Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination" had no programme budget implications.

15. Mr. DHALLADOO (Mauritius) submitted an amendment on behalf of the Group of African States, which proposed that, in paragraph 3, the final phrase "especially in South Africa and in occupied territories and territories under alien domination" should be deleted.

16. Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.3/Rev.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

17. Ms. TERANISHI (Japan) said that, although her delegation had joined the consensus, it wished to reiterate its reservations in respect of paragraph 7, which mentioned the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

18. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America) said he welcomed the first opportunity for his country to consider a draft resolution on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination since the General Assembly had revoked its resolution equating zionism with racism. Although his delegation had joined the consensus, it felt that there were too many references to apartheid, considering that concrete progress towards dismantling that system had been made. Indeed, paragraph 17 called upon Governments to encourage further positive change in South Africa, but, in the opinion of his delegation, the reference to maintaining pressure against South Africa was incomplete. It was essential to urge all parties to renew their negotiations to achieve a peaceful, non-racial and democratic society for all the citizens of South Africa.

19. Mr. SHARP (Australia) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, but that his country did not intend to become a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

OTHER MATTERS

20. Mr. MORA GODOY (Cuba) said that his delegation wished to make some observations regarding Programme 4: Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization, found in the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/6). Traditionally, that programme had been devoted to political issues of major significance; however, a new subprogramme had now been inserted entitled "Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections", which did not fit in with the overall direction of programme 4.

(Mr. Mora Godoy, Cuba)

21. It went without saying that the question had arisen from resolutions adopted in the Third Committee. Since the submission of that initiative by the United States delegation in 1988, one of its most highly debated aspects had been, precisely, its assignment. After arduous negotiations, the conclusion had been reached that it should be considered under the agenda item on human rights. However, by-passing that approach, it had been decided to place it in the context of peace and security, self-determination and other aspects. His delegation was unaware of the reasons for which that change had been made, and proposed that the question should be incorporated in programme 35, "Promotion and protection of human rights".

22. Another cause for concern to his delegation was that the new element in programme 4 had become a subprogramme. It should be recalled that the subprogrammes incorporated into programme 35 on human rights were general in nature and covered a large number of different questions under a basic category. He wondered why an attempt was being made to elevate the question of elections to that level when other matters such as self-determination, the right to development, torture and many others did not merit that status. It was possible that the importance of that element had been exaggerated. Cuba believed that the question of enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections should not be a separate subprogramme, but should be incorporated under programme 35, subprogramme 3, "Advisory services and technical cooperation".

23. As for the text of subprogramme 4, paragraph 4.37 of document A/47/6 indicated that its legislative mandate derived from General Assembly resolution 46/137. He wondered why General Assembly resolution 46/130, entitled "Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes", had not been mentioned as well.

24. Finally, paragraph 4.39 of that document indicated that an Electoral Assistance Unit had been established. His delegation wished to know what competent body had decided on its establishment. Resolution 46/137 spoke only of the designation of a senior official to act as a focal point. Paragraph 4.39 mentioned that the Unit had been established to provide development assistance. That objective did not flow from any resolution. The conditionality established between development assistance and the holding of elections was unacceptable and offensive. Cuba believed that both aspects should be corrected until the General Assembly had examined those questions and had taken its sovereign decisions.

25. Ms. FENG Cui (China) recalled that the Bureau had assigned subprogramme 4 to the Special Political Committee and not to the Third Committee. The Chairman of the Special Political Committee had, at that time, informed Member States that comments regarding subprogramme 4 should be submitted in writing before a deadline, which had not yet passed.

(Ms. Feng Cui, China)

26. On the other hand, the Secretary-General's report entitled "Request to the United Nations to observe the referendum process in Eritrea" (A/47/544) referred to a new unit whose establishment had not been approved by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, namely, the Electoral Assistance Unit of the Department of Political Affairs. Her delegation requested the Chairman to clarify, first, whether the unit in question indeed existed and, if so, what body had taken the decision to establish it. Second, she asked if the deadline established by the Chairman of the Special Political Committee for submission of comments on subprogramme 4 remained in effect.

27. Her delegation shared the feeling of other delegations that the subprogramme should be transferred to the Third Committee, since its legal basis was found in General Assembly resolution 46/137, adopted under the human rights item assigned to that Committee. Therefore, it seemed inappropriate for a Committee that had not adopted that resolution to examine a subprogramme based on it.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
31st meeting
held on
Friday, 6 November 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

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92-57567 6245S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.31
16 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/47/80-S/23502; A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471 and A/47/564)

1. Mr. MOTSYK (Ukraine) said that the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs continued to pose a social, economic and political threat in virtually all countries. Those activities also frustrated the fight against terrorism, corruption and AIDS. Moreover, political instability and the transition to a market economy in some States, coupled with the fact that drug trafficking was now better organized, were helping to facilitate the establishment of new markets and new distribution routes. Active efforts to promote drug control were therefore essential at all levels. In that connection, his delegation was highly appreciative of the work carried out by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). It also endorsed the UNDCP approach, which gave equal consideration to reducing the demand and supply of illicit drugs and fighting drug trafficking. A still more comprehensive global approach could be achieved if appropriate preventive measures were also applied.

2. His delegation noted with satisfaction that UNDCP activities had been extended to encompass new regions and newly-independent States, notably in Eastern Europe, including States established on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Until recently, and with very few exceptions, the only illicit drugs in Ukraine were of local origin, a fact which was probably explained by the then strict border regime and the non-convertibility of the currency. However, now that Ukraine was standardizing its border legislation and broadening its international links, narcotic drugs regularly found their way into the country from abroad, apparently confirming the view that the Eastern European region was a new target for traffickers. Accordingly, he believed that UNDCP activities in that region should be further strengthened.

3. His delegation fully supported UNDCP efforts to secure the accession - and subsequent adherence - by all States to international treaties on drug control. Ukraine had ratified the three major international conventions, which now constituted part of its national legislation in accordance with a law passed in 1991. He also attached great importance to strengthening regional and subregional cooperation among States to combat drug trafficking; such cooperation among the States of Eastern and Western Europe should be a key issue for discussion when the heads of drug enforcement agencies met in Vienna in 1993. Cooperation among States to combat criminality, which included the illegal drug trade, had been stressed at the meeting of internal ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States, Estonia and Latvia, held in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev in October 1992. At the meeting, Ukraine had concluded a number of bilateral agreements on cooperation in drug control and illicit drug trafficking.

(Mr. Motsyk, Ukraine)

4. In conclusion, he said that his delegation attached special significance to the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, which provided an excellent opportunity to broaden awareness and active participation in the fight against drugs at international, national and regional levels. Meanwhile, the strict implementation and observance of the relevant international conventions was of the utmost importance.

5. Mr. DEKANY (Hungary) said that a coordinated overall strategy to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking needed to give due regard to the highly complex nature of the drug problem, including the motivations of drug users and the political and socio-economic circumstances underlying illicit production and trafficking.

6. The International Drug Control Programme, under skilful leadership, had thus far been successful in fulfilling its objectives. Particularly noteworthy were its efforts to use effectively the resources of various United Nations agencies while ensuring a coordinated and highly professional approach to project implementation. His country believed that programmes in the field of drug control should be developed as the outcome of constructive dialogue between donor and recipient countries. In addition, programme planners should allocate resources more equitably between programmes designed to reduce demand and those aimed at preventing drug production and trafficking and should take account of the implementation of supply and demand. The International Drug Control Programme had a number of important priorities: strengthening its relationship with United Nations and other agencies; broadening the donor base; providing legal assistance for implementation of the drug conventions; and strengthening control over drug production and trafficking. To that list should be added several other priorities, over the medium and long term: prevention; establishing an ongoing dialogue between continents; and developing local, regional and national strategies.

7. Policy planning in the drug control field depended on the availability of consistent and reliable information. The international community must accordingly ensure that the International Drug Control Programme was in a position to provide data on trends in drug abuse and illicit trafficking world wide and, in that connection, the further development of the International Drug Abuse Assessment System was most welcome.

8. Reliable data was particularly important for the eastern European region, where drastic social changes had given rise to a new wave of drug production and illicit trafficking. Hungary wished to thank the International Drug Control Programme, other international agencies and donor countries for their assistance, within the framework of the Balkan route programme, in strengthening the region's law enforcement services. At the same time, it agreed with the International Narcotics Control Board that attention should also be paid to strengthening efforts for the prevention of drug abuse and for the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug abusers. Certain countries, among them the central European countries, had only limited

(Mr. Dekany, Hungary)

knowledge in the drug field, particularly in the areas of education, prevention and treatment, and would accordingly need a greater share of Programme resources for applied research and evaluation.

9. Despite a rise in drug confiscations in 1992, the Balkans continued to be a major route for illicit drug traffic to Europe. Drug traffickers were reacting to political changes in the region: the conflict in the former Yugoslavia had shifted traditional trafficking patterns to Hungary, making it an important part of the transit route. His country had not, contrary to certain beliefs, been the site of illicit drug storehouses or clandestine laboratories and it still did not represent a significant marketplace for hard drugs. Hungary's drug law enforcement authorities, supported by the International Drug Control Programme, were determined to prevent any significant increase in drug distribution and consumption rates.

10. His country had taken a number of steps in the fight against narcotic drugs. It had participated in the Chemical Action Task Force, subsequently incorporating the Task Force's recommendations in its national legislation. It had established a reporting system on the production, exportation and importation of the 10 new targeted precursor substances. It was currently preparing to ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and to elaborate legal regulations on money-laundering. The Hungarian Parliament would be considering modification of the country's penal code, including provisions dealing with drug dealers and drug abusers. Hungary was also developing a national drug abuse prevention strategy which would include anti-drug education for schoolchildren, increased responsibility at the local level, and the development of treatment and rehabilitation services.

11. Mr. ANSARI (Pakistan) said that his delegation was deeply concerned by the dramatic escalation of drug abuse in recent years, which had led to an upsurge in crime, violence and corruption and the draining of resources which might otherwise be used for socio-economic development. No nation was immune to those problems; hence they could only be resolved through a coordinated international effort. In that connection, he hoped that the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, a mechanism designed to coordinate all United Nations system activities in that field, would be an effective means of implementing the Global Programme of Action.

12. A successful drug-control strategy must recognize that the production, supply and consumption of narcotic drugs were interconnected and had to be addressed as a single problem. In recent years, the distinction between producer and consumer States had become increasingly blurred: traditional producer and transit States were faced with increasing demand for drugs and traditional consumer States were getting involved in production, in particular of psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals. His Government agreed that reduction of demand was of primary importance and in that connection welcomed the 1990 London Declaration on Demand Reduction.

(Mr. Ansari, Pakistan)

13. Measures to curtail production and trafficking would be effective only if taken in conjunction with actions to provide alternative economic opportunities for drug producers. However, it was often difficult to find cash-crop substitutes which were as financially attractive as drug crops. The international community had to encourage illicit drug producers to substitute other crops by offering them fair prices for their products and better access to world markets. In particular, it was necessary to provide economic assistance to farmers in poppy-growing areas and to establish industry in those areas as an alternative source of employment and income.

14. Law enforcement was another vital aspect of drug control. Drug law enforcement agencies should be provided with the equipment necessary to carry out their tasks and the financial assistance necessary to meet operational costs and the costs of training personnel.

15. His Government endorsed the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and welcomed its balanced and comprehensive strategy. It wished, however, to emphasize that all actions of the Programme should be guided strictly by the principles and norms of international law, in particular those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

16. Rather than expend its energy on establishing new structures, the international community should base its efforts on the more than adequate array of existing mechanisms, guidelines and instruments in the drug control field.

17. In Pakistan, the trafficking in and demand for illicit drugs was assuming alarming proportions and giving rise to serious socio-economic and financial problems. In response, his Government had strengthened its administrative structures and enforcement mechanisms and had taken a number of measures, including the establishment of an anti-narcotics task force for the investigation and prosecution of major illicit drug traffickers; the enactment of legislation dealing with traffickers and the confiscation of drug-related earnings; as well as intensification of narcotics interdiction measures. Treatment and rehabilitation of addicts was provided at Government hospitals, by some private medical practitioners, and in detoxification centres. The Government had already placed acetic anhydride on a restricted list for import and was currently considering placing on that list all substances mentioned in tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, to which it was a signatory. It was currently engaged in an educational campaign on the harmful consequences of drug abuse and planned to train resource personnel and community workers in drug abuse prevention.

18. Pakistan was an active participant in efforts of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to combat drug trafficking in the region and was a party to the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs. His country had also entered into bilateral agreements with Iran and India to exchange information on cross-boundary drug trafficking.

19. Mr. LUNA (Peru) said that the current phase of the international war on drugs was marked by the considerable success of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, under the able leadership of its Executive Director, in implementing and coordinating United Nations drug control activities. Among its notable achievements were the establishment of a data bank on the movement of substances included in tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and of other substances used in the illicit manufacture of drugs, and an agreement concluded with the World Bank in which it pledged to take due account in planning its structural adjustment and investment operations of the narcotic drug problem in those countries most affected. The General Assembly should reinforce those efforts by adopting, at its forty-seventh session, a resolution granting the International Drug Control Programme definitive status as the body integrating existing United Nations drug control structures.

20. The current global picture called for increased international cooperation in the war against drugs. While advances in that combat had been made at the local and regional levels, international cooperation continued to lag behind. The major objectives of the Global Programme of Action had still to be reached and the international community appeared to be going through a phase of relative laxity with regard to drug control. States must revitalize their efforts. Of particular importance were policies for alternative rural development, which should be supported by those United Nations agencies with the most ample financial resources.

21. It was vital to find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the drug problem, using the vast energies liberated by the end of the cold war. Efforts to promote international peace and security were viable only if accompanied by parallel efforts in the economic and social fields, including the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with their far-reaching consequences. It must also be recognized that a durable solution to the drug trafficking problem was possible only through concerted international action, which took into account respect for international sovereignty. For those reasons, his delegation supported the proposal by Mexico to convene a resumed forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in the spring of 1993, to evaluate international cooperation in the fight against drugs.

22. Peru had participated actively in efforts to combat drugs. It had undertaken negotiations with other interested Governments to coordinate drug control efforts. It had ratified in 1992 the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and had enacted specific legislation to implement the provisions relating to control of precursor substances in accordance with article 12 of the Convention. In August 1992, it had, in conjunction with five other Latin American countries, agreed to take additional measures to reduce drug trafficking by means of improved monitoring of planes and landing strips; to strengthen cooperation between customs services and commercial airlines; and to coordinate the prevention of drug use through programmes for prevention, and treatment and

(Mr. Luna, Peru)

rehabilitation. It had recently signed individual agreements with the United Kingdom on judicial cooperation and prevention of money-laundering.

23. The events of the past two years, including the collapse of an enormous political system, the current restructuring of the United Nations and the appointment of a new Secretary-General, might give the mistaken impression that the international community had lost interest in the problem of narcotic drugs. However, the intensity of that problem, the alarming rate at which it was growing, and its impact on all other aspects of society made it a more important priority than ever before.

24. Mr. STREJCZEK (Poland) said that no State was immune from the widespread threat of drugs and their destructive consequences to society. With drug abuse on the increase, the future outlook for producing, consuming and transit countries alike remained grim. Given the global nature of the problem, the role of the United Nations in combating illicit drugs and psychotropic substances was clearly instrumental. The international community had recognized the threat early on by adopting three United Nations conventions on the subject, and had been further empowered in the struggle against drugs by the establishment of UNDCP. The coordination of normative functions and operational activities within a single secretariat had been an important step.

25. During the thirty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Poland had expressed full confidence in the activities of UNDCP. It believed that its current difficulties would shortly be overcome and supported the autonomy of the Executive Director in matters of budgeting and personnel management. With regard to UNDCP priorities, his delegation held the opinion that it was equally important to reduce both the supply and the demand of narcotic drugs. It also shared the view that all drug control conventions should quickly be ratified by as many States as possible. As follow-up to its own ratification in 1989 of the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Poland was making the necessary adjustments to its legal system.

26. Poland supported the programmes on law enforcement training to be provided with UNDCP assistance, particularly the proposed laboratory project for countries on the so-called Balkan route. Drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation should be given similar attention. UNDCP should provide expertise and inspiration for international action and conduct operational activities in cooperation with other United Nations bodies and international organizations. His delegation therefore welcomed the close cooperative arrangements between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. UNDCP should also essentially provide the former with a unified annual estimate of the world-wide situation concerning illicit drugs. In addition, the interesting concepts contained in document A/47/471 concerning dialogue with the World Bank and the "debt-for-drugs" swap should be further explored.

(Mr. Strejczek, Poland)

27. While Poland had now stemmed the growth of opiate abuse, the situation was still far from satisfactory: the intravenous use of poppy extracts, for instance, had led to the spread of HIV infection among drug abusers. Recently, some success had been achieved in tackling the problem of limiting poppy cultivation without completely outlawing the local production of poppy seeds. In addition, normal poppy plants were being replaced by a low-morphine variety which was of no use for drug purposes. His country would be pleased to share its experience in that area with others. A further problem concerned the abuse mainly by adolescents of volatile solvents, which were not covered by international treaties. His delegation therefore believed that the issue merited attention from UNDCP. The content of the Committee's recent panel discussion on the subject of drug control could also provide an interesting basis for future work by UNDCP.

28. Mr. RAICHEV (Bulgaria) said that the global challenge presented by the widespread drug problem required a firm and united international response, since the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking was an integral part of securing sustainable development and overall stability. His country was prepared to lend its active cooperation to the fight and to enhance the role of UNDCP, which had already proved its viability as an instrument for averting the threat to society posed by drug abuse and drug-related crime. His delegation endorsed the approach of UNDCP because it addressed illegal drug production, traffic and abuse as an interrelated whole and supported its proposed budget. It also expressed its satisfaction with the new role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which had adopted important decisions to enhance that role.

29. For Bulgaria, drug abuse did not yet pose a serious medical and social problem, but the ongoing political and economic changes had now made it a target for drug traffickers. In that connection, his delegation wished to stress that the Bulgarian authorities and people were fully aware of the possible consequences, both for the country and world wide. Notwithstanding its serious economic difficulties, his Government was taking all possible measures to avert that danger. He commended UNDCP for its response to the urgent need of countries in transition to strengthen their capacity to do so.

30. He believed that in order to forestall a major problem of drug abuse and drug-related crime resulting from the freer movement of people and goods and the de-monopolization and privatization of the pharmaceutical industry, medicinal drug distribution and banking should go hand in hand with stronger administrative control of the manufacture, distribution and licit use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs in compliance with the relevant Conventions. To that end, the Bulgarian authorities had already implemented some measures and were continuing with their thorough review of existing legislation in order to bring it into line with the new requirements. Despite financial constraints, they also continued to allocate more resources to combating transit drug trafficking and had seen a corresponding increase in the number of interceptions.

(Mr. Raichev, Bulgaria)

31. In view of the global nature of trafficking, the international community should focus attention on potentially active transit junctions. Since Bulgaria was situated on the so-called Balkan route, it appreciated UNDCP efforts to strengthen operations aimed at barring illicit traffic from that route and the support provided by a number of donor States aimed at increasing its own potential for fighting that traffic. Finally, he stressed the importance of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which Bulgaria had recently ratified.

32. Mr. U Aye LIN (Myanmar) said there was now a growing consensus that no country could isolate itself from the devastating consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking which had been highlighted in the special session of the General Assembly held in 1990 to consider the subject. While welcoming that consensus, Myanmar wished to reiterate that the coordinated international response required to reverse the trend should be carried out in full conformity with the principles of international law, particularly respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. That caveat was stipulated in the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and General Assembly resolution 46/1.

33. It was encouraging to note that the United Nations had taken steps to strengthen its capacity to deal with the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. His delegation was confident that UNDCP, which was already doing a commendable job, would be able to respond even more effectively following the administrative integration of the three pre-existing drug control units. That effectiveness, however, would depend primarily on the sustained support of all States. Myanmar, for one, pledged its full support.

34. In order to cope with the dramatic increase in the drug problem in recent years and to counter the danger it presented to social, economic and political stability sustained programmes aimed at progressively reducing and eventually eliminating narcotic crops should be pursued concurrently with serious efforts to reduce illicit demand, which was a prerequisite for ultimate success in controlling the other dimensions of the drug equation.

35. Myanmar was following a multifaceted and multisectoral approach in tackling the drug problem. After enumerating examples of the significant progress achieved as a result of the drug campaign, he said that such endeavours clearly demonstrated his country's continuing contribution to the fight against the drug menace. Senior foreign officials due to visit Myanmar shortly would have the opportunity to witness that effort first hand.

36. The drug abuse problem in Myanmar was linked to the problem of terrorism and could not be viewed in isolation from the need for economic and social development in the border areas. In March 1989, his Government had undertaken development programmes in those areas, placing emphasis on infrastructure

(Mr. U Aye Lin, Myanmar)

building, poverty alleviation and comprehensive economic and social development. Providing an alternative livelihood to the people of the region would give them an incentive to turn away from poppy cultivation. Myanmar had established a new ministry for the development of the border areas and was confident that the programmes being implemented would contribute to the elimination of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

37. It was gratifying to note the cooperation between his Government and a number of United Nations agencies which had provided financial and technical assistance for Myanmar's drug control programmes. His Government had taken decisive steps to promote and support subregional drug-control efforts. For example, it had signed agreements with China and Thailand aimed at eliminating opium poppy cultivation and reducing drag trafficking in the border areas. It anticipated the conclusion of a similar agreement with Laos in the near future. Those agreements were clearly intended to cope with the problems of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse and to reduce the availability of illicit drugs on international markets. Myanmar was also seeking to make similar arrangements with Bangladesh and India.

38. Mr. KASOULIDES (Cyprus) said that sufficient financial resources had to be found either through reallocation of resources from the regular budget or through voluntary contributions to deal with the drug problem. Accordingly, innovative ideas such as the "drug dimension" of financing by the World Bank and "debt-for-drugs" swap concept should be further elaborated and implemented. There was also a need to step up efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of the relevant international instruments to combat drug trafficking.

39. Although Cyprus was situated at the crossroads of large-scale drug trafficking, the country itself did not as yet have a serious drug problem. Drug traffickers used offshore companies and the country's very efficient communication and banking systems. Because of the situation resulting from the 1974 invasion and the continued occupation of a substantial part of the country, his Government was prevented from exercising jurisdiction over 37 per cent of its territory, thus creating ideal conditions for drug trafficking through the ports and airports that were not under the control of the legitimate Government. Most of the drugs consumed in Cyprus were smuggled in from neighbouring countries or the occupied part of Cyprus. Aware of the danger caused by drug abuse and drug trafficking, his Government had taken a number of drug-control measures based on effective international cooperation. Cyprus cooperated closely with the various United Nations drug-control bodies and the Council of Europe in that field. At the local level, Cyprus worked with INTERPOL and other agencies in dealing with international drug trafficking cases. Fifteen liaison officers from various countries were posted in Cyprus on a permanent basis. The police force had recently upgraded its equipment for detecting and arresting drug smugglers and had introduced strict surveillance at ports and airports.

(Mr. Kasoulides, Cyprus)

40. His Government attached the highest importance to a greater exchange of information to combat drug trafficking. The national police force had reinforced its specially trained narcotics squad. Improved equipment and intelligence gathering ensured greater success in the fight against drugs.

41. His country's policy for combating drug abuse was designed to coordinate the activities of government agencies and the private sector through the National Committee for the Prevention of Drug Abuse and Trafficking. At the same time, the Government sought to introduce preventive programmes based on education and the dissemination of information in order to increase awareness of the problem at all levels and utilize the strong family structure to prevent drug abuse. The National Information Committee provided advice and drug counselling as part of the preventive strategy and in the area of treatment, the primary objective was to establish a special detoxification centre. Rehabilitation measures were designed to reintegrate drug abusers in the community and provide professional training for former addicts. Lastly, Cyprus, like all small countries, did not have sufficient resources for combating drug trafficking effectively and welcomed outside assistance.

42. Mr. CHOWDURY (Bangladesh) expressed support for the activities described in the report of the Secretary-General on narcotic drugs (A/47/471) and the hope that concerted drug control actions would be sustained at the national, regional and international levels. More information, however, should be provided on the "drug dimension" to be introduced in the lending operations of international financial institutions. That innovation should not increase the already excessive number of conditionalities.

43. The causes of drug abuse, including unemployment and poverty, should be addressed and eliminated through a coordinated approach. While the drug situation in Bangladesh had not reached alarming proportions, the Government was aware of the potential danger and was committed to preventing it from becoming a threat. Bangladesh had signed the international drug control conventions and its legislation strictly prohibited the production, processing, transport, purchase, sale and use of drugs. The Department of Narcotics Control had been established as the focal point for all anti-drug activities in the country; and customs inspectors were being specially trained in drug detection. Mass support for anti-drug measures was being promoted through public relations activities.

44. Emphasis was being placed on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers and on reintegrating former addicts into society through special programmes. In cooperation with donors and UNDCP, a five-year master plan had been formulated focusing on law enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation, and preventive education and information. Bangladesh enthusiastically supported a regional approach to drug trafficking within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Lastly, his Government underscored the need for concerted international action and pledged full cooperation with the international community.

45. Mrs. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said that the developing countries lacked sufficient financial resources for drug law enforcement and treatment programmes and a successful approach to drug problems in all their aspects must therefore be based on international cooperation. There must be a high-level commitment to effective programmes and concerted action based on the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control.

46. The recent Non-Aligned Summit in Jakarta had expressed profound concern at the threat posed to society by drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking and had welcomed the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and the measures taken to enhance the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the principal policy-making body for drug control issues in the United Nations system.

47. Developing countries required additional resources and technical assistance in order to strengthen their criminal justice systems and drug abuse prevention programmes. At the recent Summit and in connection with the legal framework for drug control activities, the non-aligned countries had also reiterated their support for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and for the established principles of international law. Accordingly, all States should ratify the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

48. Reduced demand and a strengthening of the economies of the developing countries were prerequisites for lasting positive results in the drug war. Only concerted international action directed to poverty alleviation, rehabilitation of drug abusers and increased development assistance would be effective.

49. It was encouraging to note that the approach followed by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was consistent with General Assembly resolution 46/103, which emphasized the connection between illicit trafficking and the economic, social and cultural conditions of the countries affected. The non-aligned countries would seek to ensure the implementation of that resolution.

50. A fruitful dialogue between UNDCP and other agencies such as UNDP, FAO and IFAD, and regional development banks and institutions should promote a more effective drug control programme and ensure maximum utilization of resources in view of the limited budgets available to the agencies which bore primary responsibility for drug control. She hoped that the restructuring of the United Nations would make it possible to finalize the Programme's institutional arrangements.

51. Mr. OULIA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that vast amounts of human and financial resources, which urgently needed to be channelled into development, were instead spent to curtail the destructive consequences of the illicit production and traffic in narcotic drugs. The dramatic global increase in drug abuse had adversely affected the stability of nations and had often led to cultural regression, social disruption, and economic breakdown.

(Mr. Oulia, Islamic Republic of Iran)

52. Anti-drug strategies could not be effective without a clear insight into the drug abuse phenomenon. The misuse of narcotic drugs was due not only to the profit seeking of drug trafficking networks but also to the relative weakness of governmental authority in the drug control area. At the international level, the United Nations had taken a number of measures to deal with the problem, including the enactment of three conventions on narcotic drugs, the adoption of the Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly, the proclamation of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, and the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. In order for those measures to be successful, however, all countries had to contribute to the common efforts.

53. The complete eradication of poppy cultivation immediately after the Islamic revolution in Iran and the severe countermeasures adopted by the Government to control the flow of narcotic drugs into the country had led to a significant reduction in the availability of opium and manufactured heroin and to a considerable increase in drug prices in Iran. The implementation of various rehabilitation programmes had also dramatically reduced the number of addicts. Despite those efforts, however, large quantities of raw opium and manufactured heroin and morphine continued to enter Iran in transit to Europe.

54. The destructive impact of the drug transit problem on the people and States situated along transit routes had thrust a tremendous humanitarian responsibility on the Government of Iran to block the entry of drugs into the country. Despite the continuing demands made upon it by the national reconstruction programme, Iran had embarked on a very costly campaign against illicit drug trafficking by enacting severe security countermeasures along its borders.

55. The human and financial resources allocated by Iran in its struggle against drug transit had protected States along transit routes, particularly European countries, against the influx of large amounts of drugs. However, responsibility for controlling the influx of drugs into Iran must be shared by all countries concerned. Notwithstanding the recognition by UNDCP - INCB and ICPO, of Iran's success in curtailing drug transit, Iran's achievements had received no adequate response. As with other social problems, the drug threat would not be removed unless collective interests were able to prevail over political preferences.

56. His delegation welcomed the Joint Programme initiated by UNDCP in the border areas of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, which was designed to strengthen subregional cooperation efforts against illicit drug trafficking in the region. The strengthening of such transboundary cooperation would play a crucial role in combating illicit traffic in narcotic drugs from south-west Asia to Europe. His delegation had repeatedly emphasized that the effective implementation of the Joint Programme in South-West Asia was closely linked to

(Mr. Oulia, Islamic Republic of Iran)

the degree of technical and financial assistance provided to Iran's neighbouring countries for the eradication of illicit poppy cultivation and for crop substitution. It therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's report that rural development and crop substitution programmes in Afghanistan and Pakistan had continued to be implemented in the second half of 1991 with assistance from the Programme. The elimination of illicit cultivation in those countries required urgent international action and should be properly addressed in the five-year plan of UNDCP.

57. His Government recognized the vital impact of subregional strategies and bilateral agreements on the elimination of the scourge of narcotic drugs in the region. Such cooperation could be strengthened by the establishment of direct communication between central Governments and local authorities in the border provinces. The Executive Director of the Programme had informed the Committee about the technical consultation organized at Islamabad to assess and eliminate the illicit poppy crop cultivation in south-west Asia. His delegation looked forward to the continuation of such consultations with a view to the eventual elaboration of a set of regulations governing anti-drug activities.

58. In response to the Iranian Government's invitation, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had decided to convene the ministerial-level Conference at the twenty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at Teheran. The Conference had adopted the Tehran Declaration, which contained a number of conclusions concerning such issues as the elimination of illicit cultivation, suppression of trafficking, confiscation, control of precursors and essential chemicals, and reduction of demand. In its Declaration, the Conference proposed to recommend the establishment of a regional bureau of UNDCP to ensure the smooth implementation and effective monitoring of the Programme. The Declaration also commended the efforts of UNDCP to ensure that donor countries played a substantial role in the Programme's activities.

59. Mrs. BANGOURA (Guinea) said that the production, illicit trafficking and consumption of narcotic drugs not only jeopardized the economic development and stability of all countries by undermining the youth but intravenous or intramuscular drug consumption, often under unhygienic conditions, had also contributed to the expansion of the AIDS pandemic.

60. In the struggle against the use of and trafficking in narcotic drugs, a pluridisciplinary approach must be adopted, the traditional methods of policing and destroying fields of psychotropic plants having proved ineffective. In many developing countries, peasants risked their lives to grow crops of psychotropic plants because of the rich rewards. The international community must therefore attack the problem at its roots by promoting the cultivation of staple crops in the developing countries and by providing technical and financial assistance and international cooperation for development programmes.

(Mrs. Bangoura, Guinea)

61. Her delegation welcomed the establishment in 1991 of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which would help to consolidate the basis for international cooperation in the fight against international drug trafficking. Her delegation supported the Programme's appeal to the international community to vigorously implement joint measures to reduce illicit production and demand, exchange information to help bring about the dismantling of trafficking networks, strengthen the mechanisms for stopping the laundering of drug money, provide large-scale assistance to rural development programmes in order to enable the drug producers to earn a living from licit activities and promote substitute economic activities at remunerative prices.

62. In the area of international legislation, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 had supplemented the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Those legal instruments reflected decisive international efforts aimed at strengthening the international community's war against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Adherence to those Conventions would strengthen the international cooperation that was necessary to reduce and eventually eradicate the illicit production and demand for drugs and inspire rural populations to join in the war on drugs.

63. The Government of Guinea had established a pluridisciplinary commission charged with coordinating activities and proposing measures to combat drug use. The commission planned to use the media to educate the population on the evils of drug abuse and to work for the treatment and social rehabilitation of drug addicts.

64. Since the profits derived from drug trafficking were a key element of the power of drug traffickers, victory in the drug war would require not only political will on the part of States but also bilateral and multilateral technical and financial assistance. Her delegation therefore supported the adoption of measures to control the financial assets of drug traffickers and was in favour of making the laundering of drug money an international crime.

65. It was time for the international community, through UNDCP to identify priorities for intensifying the struggle. Her delegation welcomed the activities of the bodies and agencies of the United Nations system that were assisting UNDCP and was confident that their combined efforts and the strengthening of international cooperation would make it possible to achieve the objectives of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

66. Ms. KHAPARDE (India) said that India had become a transit route for the shipment of drugs and was therefore deeply concerned about the growing menace of drug abuse and its related problems, such as the rapid spread of AIDS and narco terrorism.

(Ms. Khaparde, India)

67. India was a traditional producer of licit opium under strictly controlled conditions which left no scope for any significant leakage of opium for other than licensed purposes. Indeed, the Indian system had been adopted as a model by the International Narcotics Control Board and had been used to formulate article 23 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. No significant illicit cultivation of opium poppy in India had come to the notice of the Government.

68. During the world-wide shortage of opiate raw material in the 1970s, India had increased its production of opium at the express request of the international community. Subsequently, with the decline in demand, the number of cultivators and the area under poppy cultivation had been progressively reduced. The export price of opium had also been cut to less than half the price current in the 1970s.

69. India now faced the threat from the influx of heroin through its north-western and north-eastern borders, most of which was destined for Europe and the United States of America. The stringent measures taken against drug traffickers, including intensifying controls at land borders and international airports, had resulted in large-scale seizures of illicit drugs. Drug enforcement authorities had also moved against the crude processing laboratories that converted opium into heroin and had broken up many drug syndicates. As a result of the enforcement measures and severe penalties exacted by India, other routes were currently being used by drug traffickers to reach Western markets.

70. India had been cooperating closely with the Governments of the United States and other countries not only in controlling the illicit production and smuggling of drugs but also in monitoring the illegal financial ramifications of drug-related activities. Indeed, her country was keen to work with foreign Governments in all aspects of drug-related offences. It was also in favour of strict domestic and international laws to curb the spread of the drug menace. However, easy access to precursors as well as the increase in money laundering had been big obstacles to effective international cooperation.

71. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme had established a three-pronged strategy for conducting research on the impact of illegal drugs on national economies, promoting technical assistance in support of World Bank lending activities, and preparing development strategies and plans which took into consideration the drug dimension. The United Nations agencies had also been working closely with the countries of South Asia, including India, which stood to benefit from the demand reduction component of the Programme, part of the global strategy against drug abuse.

72. The drug menace was far from being totally controlled, since every new method devised to counteract a particular drug was very often rendered ineffective by the replacement of the drug or its method of manufacture

(Ms. Khaparde, India)

through the introduction of a new precursor. Like so many new social problems of the 1990s, drug abuse required global action, which depended on the collective will of the international community.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
32nd meeting
held on
Monday, 9 November 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. KRENKEL	(Austria)
later:	Mr. DEKANY (Vice-Chairman)	(Hungary)
later:	Mr. KRENKEL (Chairman)	(Austria)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.32
17 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

92-57597 6252S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 94: ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (continued) (A/C.3/47/L.24)

Draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.24)

1. Mrs. LIMJUCO (Philippines), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/47/L.24 on violence against women migrant workers, drew attention to some changes made by the sponsors to the draft text. The title should read "Violence against migrant women workers". In the first preambular paragraph, the first word should be changed from "Noting" to "Recalling", and, in the first line, the word "affirms" to "reaffirms". In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "some of" should be inserted after the words "workers by". In paragraph 3, the following phrase should be inserted between the words "measures" and "to provide": "to promote the safety of women subject to violence and". In paragraph 4, the phrase "relevant human rights bodies," should be inserted after "United Nations". In the same paragraph, the words "the problem" should be deleted and replaced by "violence against migrant women workers". Finally, the sponsors had agreed to reword paragraph 6 to read:

> "Requests the Secretary-General, in view of time constraints and pending the completion of a written report, to make a preliminary oral report, through the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

2. The following countries were added to the list of sponsors: Australia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Malaysia, Mexico and Uganda.

3. The draft resolution was prompted by the plight of women who, in ever greater numbers, were being compelled to leave their homes and families in search of gainful employment in the more affluent parts of the world, where they were doubly vulnerable to exploitation and mistreatment on account of their gender and foreign status. The draft resolution acknowledged that countries had the primary responsibility for endeavouring to provide employment to their citizens, and to ensure equal enjoyment of human rights, in accordance with the Charter. It denounced gender-based violence as a nullification of women's rights and fundamental freedoms. It was not intended to accuse anyone in particular, nor to address the issue of violence against women in general. It emphasized the importance of cooperative efforts by Member States of the United Nations in general, and by the sending and receiving countries in particular, in identifying shortcomings in their own systems which engendered violence against migrant women workers. The resolution should be seen as a small but positive step towards a more caring attitude towards others, which was the real foundation of peace.

(Mrs. Limjuco, Philippines)

4. She was grateful to the sponsors for agreeing to keep the draft resolution close to its original form and language in order to preserve its purely humanitarian thrust. For that reason no additions to the present list of sponsors could be accepted. In view of the humanitarian and urgent nature of the draft resolution, she hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, A/47/391, A/47/471 and A/47/564)

5. Mrs. RAOELINA (Madagascar) said that, in the context of the increasingly critical consequences of drug abuse and trafficking, her delegation supported the overall approach of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) aimed at reducing both supply and demand. Further efforts must be made to reduce demand, which was a key factor in illicit trafficking. African drug-control authorities had requested UNIDCP to increase its funding of demand-reduction programmes in Africa, as part of the Global Programme of Action.

6. Aware of the need for shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem, Madagascar had become a party to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Her country had also adopted a number of drug-control measures with the assistance of UNIDCP and France. All imports of psychotropic substances from European countries had to be declared and reported. Madagascar had taken part in the regional training seminar for drug control administrators in Africa.

7. The lack of financial, material and human resources, inadequate coordination of activities and poor living standards among certain sectors of the population inhibited the implementation of an appropriate drug policy in many countries. Madagascar had accordingly requested UNIDCP assistance for preventive action, focused mainly on teacher training and the supply of equipment to strengthen existing infrastructure. Her delegation reaffirmed its support for the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in Africa. There continued to be substantial movements of illicit drugs through the region, and Africa was reported to be serving as a transit route between South America and Europe.

8. The cycle of production, trafficking and consumption called for concerted global action at the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental levels. UNIDCP was ideally placed to play the role of catalyst in international drug-control activities, and must be adequately funded, equipped and staffed. Her delegation supported the request of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for States to donate the confiscated assets of persons convicted of drug-related offences to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

9. Mr. SERGIWA (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that concerted international action was required to counteract the drug problem, which threatened security and stability world wide. While commending the work of UNIDCP, he said that it should continue assisting the developing countries, particularly those most affected by the drug problem, to develop anti-drug legislation in line with the relevant international treaties. It should also continue to provide technical assistance and training aimed at enhancing the skills of people working in the field of drug control and to advise on improving the mechanisms used for that purpose.

10. Education and the media had an important role to play in reducing the demand for drugs, as did prevention and rehabilitation. Reducing the drug supply was equally vital; the drug-producing countries should therefore devise crop- and income-substitution programmes. An effective control mechanism should also be implemented to prevent the diversion of chemical and narcotic substances intended for legitimate purposes. In addition, strict penalties should be enforced for drug traffickers, whose assets should be confiscated, while a rapid information-exchange facility would help to expedite the arrest and prosecution of offenders. The producer, transit and consumer countries should coordinate their efforts to achieve further progress, as well as introduce measures to eliminate money-laundering.

11. He affirmed the importance of complying with international treaties on drug control. Each State had a responsibility to combat trafficking but, in so doing, should abide by the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, particularly that of non-interference in internal affairs. His own country did not suffer the same drug problems as others: it was neither a producer nor a consumer, although it was sometimes used as a transit point owing to its geographical location. Libya had instituted measures to eliminate drug trafficking and abuse, such as introducing deterrent penalties, establishing numerous bodies and commissions to fight drugs, concluding bilateral agreements and exchanging information with international drug-control agencies. It would shortly ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, having already acceded to the other major international treaties on the subject, and was an active member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

12. Finally, he commended the role played by the various United Nations agencies in combating drugs and hoped that UNIDCP would receive the material and human resources it needed.

13. Mrs. GILES (Australia) said that UNIDCP must have the necessary authority and resources to carry out its mandate, which must continue to be one of the top priorities of the United Nations for the 1994-1995 biennium. Governments and non-governmental organizations were urged to use the Programme as a coordination facility to encourage complementarity and prevent duplication.

14. Turning to the relevant reports of the Secretary-General (A/47/378 and A/47/471), she said that Australia had signed the 1988 Convention, and had

(Mrs. Giles, Australia)

taken steps to give effect to most of its obligations under the Convention, especially those to ensure that drug traffickers could not escape justice and enjoy the proceeds of their criminal activities. Having now adopted federal, state and territory legislation and taken administrative action to ensure consistency with the Convention, especially through money-laundering and cash-transaction reporting legislation and extradition and mutual-assistance laws to combat organized crime, Australia would be dispatching its instrument of ratification for deposit in New York on 10 November. Her delegation urged countries that had not yet done so to ratify the 1988 Convention or at least adopt measures to assist in the development of a global system to combat illicit trafficking.

15. Noting that the question of the guiding principles in the fight against drugs was fully covered by various international instruments and General Assembly resolutions, she hoped that the issue would not be the subject of a further resolution, and that the focus would now be on reducing the harm caused by drug abuse, through the implementation of demand-reduction strategies.

16. Australia supported further examination of the economic and social consequences of illicit trafficking, but was concerned about the inadequacy of reliable data. It welcomed the pilot study covering 10 countries being undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the United Nations University.

17. An important element of the enhanced United Nations role in international drug issues had been the strengthened policy-making role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Her delegation looked forward to the first round of consultations on the budget due to be held shortly.

18. Welcoming the examples of strengthened system-wide coordination reported in document A/47/471, her delegation favoured even closer cooperation between UNIDCP and the specialized agencies and other relevant programmes and bodies. It was clear from the greatly enhanced national, regional and international activity that the international community had responded to the leadership shown by the United Nations, and there was room for optimism that the call for enhanced international efforts was being translated into detailed policies and programmes.

19. Mr. ROSARIO (Cuba) said that UNIDCP should focus greater attention on effective measures to monitor the proceeds of illicit activities and prevent the diversion of chemical precursors. In general, the work of the Organization in the field of drug control should be considered in depth.

(Mr. Rosario, Cuba)

20. There was no drug addiction in Cuba and drugs were not produced or processed there. His Government had taken steps to prevent the transit of drugs to the United States through its territory and territorial waters. Cuba, which had signed a number of drug-control agreements with other countries in the region, reaffirmed its readiness to set up cooperation mechanisms with neighbouring countries.

21. While the drug scourge affected both rich and poor countries, it could not be divorced from the economic and social inequality in the world. The problem must be tackled with determination, on the basis of greater international cooperation, with specific measures aimed at promoting alternative development in producing countries. Development was the only reasonable option for putting an end to drug trafficking.

22. The policies and propaganda campaigns pursued by consuming countries were based on a distorted view of the real causes of the drug problem, according to which the people in the developing countries that produced drugs were bad, while the lifestyle that created the need to consume drugs was good. It was easier to call for a military solution than to provide the assistance needed to cope with the economic and social problems involved.

23. In combating drug trafficking, States must respect the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. The extraterritorial application of the laws of one country with regard to another was unacceptable and ran counter to the spirit of international cooperation to combat illicit drug trafficking. All States were responsible for preventing drug trafficking and none, regardless of its strength, could ignore its commitments.

24. Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan) said that all countries should become parties to the 1988 Convention in order to make it truly effective. Japan, which had ratified the Convention in June 1992, had strengthened its domestic anti-drug legislation. That would help greatly in combating drug trafficking and organized crime, both domestically and internationally. His Government welcomed the progress made in subregional cooperation. The UNIDCP regional centre for Asia was instrumental in promoting joint anti-narcotics programmes through the development of subregional activities and monitoring of the Programme's financial and technical assistance to South-East Asian countries.

25. Although UNIDCP was performing quite well, its budget was small, given the complexity and universality of drug problems. It was therefore time to review the Programme's activities and find a way to ensure the most effective use of its funds. Since supply-reduction projects could receive assistance from international financial institutions and relevant United Nations agencies, it was vital for UNIDCP to remain in contact with those organizations in order to obtain the necessary assistance.

26. Supply-reduction projects required strengthened law-enforcement programmes. In view of the increased drug abuse in producing countries and

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

the combination of drug problems and AIDS problems, the Programme should focus more on demand reduction.

27. The geographical distribution of the Programme's activities in the Asian region, where two of the world's major drug-producing areas were situated, was quite insufficient. The role of UNIDCP in the region was crucial. Although the activities carried out by the regional centre in Bangkok were successful, there was still much to be done. Lastly, UNIDCP had made a significant contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by reporting on the damage caused by drug production to the global environment.

28. Mr. KHOMAN (Thailand) said that the narcotic drug market was currently controlled by underworld organizations which more or less disdained production, focusing more on distribution and marketing. Western countries, despairing at their inability to cope with the problem domestically, were claiming they were victims and had placed responsibility almost entirely on producers. In fact, there had been no case in history where production continued when there was no demand, and the production of illicit drugs was dangerously on the rise, accompanied by increased addiction and alarming trends in HIV infection.

29. Despite accusations levelled by Western nations against other countries, drug money laundering was taking place in those same Western countries. That situation was comparable to Western nations' shifting the refugee burden to the poor developing nations in South-East Asia by obligating them to care for refugees, examplifying a double standard of behaviour where economic and political strength was used to deceive and blackmail others.

30. His delegation supported the work of UNIDCP and hoped that it would be provided with adequate resources. The war against drugs had to be aimed at reducing not only supply, but demand as well, and must include the treatment and social reintegration of drug addicts. Moreover, strong and effective legislation would have a deterrent effect on drug traffickers.

31. People in South-East Asia were not immune to the devastating effects of narcotic crop cultivation and illicit trafficking; subregional cooperation was vitally needed to fight the drug problem. Thailand and Myanmar had introduced a joint project to reduce opium cultivation and strengthen law-enforcement measures to neutralize drug trafficking in the border areas. Furthermore, Thailand, Laos and Myanmar had met to discuss cooperation in drug control.

32. While extending full cooperation in the matter of narcotic drugs Thailand affirmed unequivocally that the responsibility rested with the consuming countries, whose duty it was to reduce and, if possible, wipe out the market for drugs. For that purpose, a body similar to INTERPOL needed to be set up in order to deal with that world-wide problem. Such an approach would not be less intelligent, and would certainly be more humane, than deploying thousands of troops for the capture of one renegade general and thereby causing the loss of hundreds of innocent lives. Similarly, the use of military personnel and

(Mr. Khoman, Thailand)

equipment in Latin American producing countries was not likely to be effective, since the crux of the problem lay in the undiminished demand. Without the help of the United Nations and relevant organizations, efforts to combat drug abuse could not claim a measure of success.

33. Mr. SOH (Republic of Korea) said organized crime had played a dominant role in upscaling the drug problem from the national to the global level. The distinction between producing, consuming and transit States had been blurred by the formidable efficiency of the traffickers. The United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP) had demonstrated its ability to act as a vanguard in the global fight against drug trafficking. However, more generous voluntary contributions were needed if UNIDCP was to accomplish the many tasks before it. The Republic of Korea would substantially raise its contribution for 1993. Higher priority should, however, be given to funding UNIDCP from the regular budget.

34. His delegation shared UNIDCP's concern regarding the financial disincentives which farmers faced when trying to replace illicit crops with others, and encouraged further collaboration between UNIDCP and the World Bank to seek alternative development options. UNIDCP also deserved credit for promoting demand reduction as well as supply reduction. Its close cooperation with WHO in implementing the Programme on Substance Abuse, which considered demand reduction a fundamental global strategy, was a step in the right direction. Education was a crucial component, and he hoped that it would be promoted in tandem with further emphasis on recreation and sporting activities for youth.

35. His delegation supported the decisions and resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session, and in particular its decision to add ten more substances to tables I and II attached to the 1988 Convention. Although his delegation supported endeavours to deny illicit drug producers the essential inputs, it stressed that international control should not in any way impede free trade in chemicals for licit uses.

36. His Government had proposed the creation of a "Goodwill Ambassador" programme, similar to that implemented by UNICEF, as a step to increasing public awareness of the severity of the drug problem. The abrupt rise in the amount of confiscated drugs had been cause for concern in his country. His delegation shared the view that the 1988 Convention represented one of the primary foundations on which the international community should establish a coordinated front against drug trafficking. His Government would accede to the 1988 Convention as soon as the necessary adjustment had been made to harmonize domestic legislation. His delegation supported the General Assembly resolution 46/101, which reaffirmed that the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking should continue to be based on strict respect for the principles of the Charter and international law. In recognition of the importance of regional and subregional arrangements in combating trafficking, his delegation would host the eighteenth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) for the Asia and Pacific region in October 1993.

37. Mr. AL-MOHAIRY (United Arab Emirates) said that international cooperation was vital to eliminating the social threat which drugs posed to the younger generation in particular. Accordingly, his delegation supported the efforts of UNIDCP. As part of the international community and in line with the teachings of Islam, which prohibited all forms of drug-related activities, his country had formed a national commission to combat drugs. It was also conducting a drug awareness campaign, implementing programmes for drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and providing ongoing training to improve the skills of people employed in the field of drug control. At the international level, it had become a party to the three major international treaties on drugs.

38. A comprehensive and coordinated strategy to combat the drug problem at local, regional and international levels was essential. Individual States also had a responsibility to introduce effective legislative, administrative and other preventive measures to contain the problem and eventually eliminate its damaging effects. Drug-producing countries, meanwhile, should implement measures such as crop-substitution programmes coupled with compensation to farmers. Moral and financial support from the international community was therefore essential if such measures were to be implemented in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/102, which was the only means of creating a safe and stable drug-free world.

39. Mr. Dekany (Hungary), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

40. Mr. SENILOLI (Fiji), speaking on behalf of the countries of the South Pacific Forum, said that those countries were not isolated from the scourge of drugs. Since the region had been relatively neglected in terms of bilateral, regional and multilateral drug control activities, it was extremely vulnerable to the dangers of drug trafficking. With its great expanse of ocean and economically vulnerable small island States, the region was prey to traffickers, who used small island nations as staging posts in their operations.

41. The members of the South Pacific Forum were committed to cooperating, both regionally and internationally, to combat drug trafficking and prevent the Pacific islands from becoming integral parts of trafficking routes and money-laundering centres. The countries of the region were already working together closely in that regard. In July 1992, Forum leaders had expressed concern at the grave social consequences of drug trafficking and drug abuse and had adopted a declaration on law enforcement cooperation, which identified priorities and established a framework for further cooperation. The Forum had recognized the need for legislative action to implement international initiatives and had agreed to accord priority to ratifying the 1988 Convention. The need to improve law-enforcement training and cooperate in order to counter terrorism had also been recognized.

42. More should be done internationally to ensure that the South Pacific was able to halt drug trafficking. The Forum welcomed the commitment of UNIDCP to

(Mr. Seniloli, Fiji)

the development of a subregional strategy and looked forward to the upcoming visit to the region by a UNIDCP mission to determine the extent of drug problems in the region and recommend measures for future assistance. The States members of the Forum would work closely with UNIDCP to develop further international cooperation to combat drug trafficking.

43. Mr. TSEPOV (Russian Federation) said that UNIDCP was making a unique contribution as a centre for coordinating international efforts in the fight against drug abuse. Those efforts should be consolidated so that that Programme could be effective. UNIDCP had already initiated a dialogue with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and was intending to establish cooperation with a number of regional development banks. The Programme's "debt-for-drugs" concept was another promising initiative.

44. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs could play an important role in implementing the Programme. Given the link between drug trafficking and transnational crime, it was clear that close cooperation was needed between that Commission and the Commissions on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The international community should keep abreast of the problems as they developed and adopt measures in a timely fashion. In that respect, his delegation commended the fact that 34 more States and the European Economic Community had become parties to the 1988 Convention. His country had joined the fight against drug abuse under the auspices of the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe. He stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation in Asia, noting that his Government had participated in a recent meeting of experts held in Pakistan to discuss increasing cooperation in the fight against drug abuse in that region. Bilateral agreements between countries that shared mutual understanding and trust were an effective way to coordinate efforts. His delegation intended to pursue that type of dialogue with other interested States.

45. At the national level, each State had to deal a decisive blow against the "narcotic monster". His Government and society at large were preparing to take concerted action. A long-term national strategy in the areas of legislation, border control, public health and international cooperation was currently being worked out.

46. Mr. ALLAREY (Philippines) said that his delegation supported the introduction of a "drug dimension" in the work of the World Bank and UNIDCP's "debt-for-drugs" swap concept (A/47/471, paras. 8 and 9). It was also gratifying to note the various programmes carried out by ILO, FAO, UNESCO, ICAO and WHO in the field of drug control. The Philippines also welcomed the World Bank's initiatives in focusing on the adverse economic and social consequences of the reduced production of narcotic raw materials and on alternative activities.

47. In the Philippines, the drug problem continued to pose major problems for the Government. Because of its easy availability, marijuana was still the

(Mr. Allarey, Philippines)

number-one choice of drug abusers. In the 1990s, hashish had re-emerged on the illicit market and was also clandestinely exported through foreign connections. The second drug of choice was methamphetamine hydrochloride, or "shabu" as it was called locally. That drug caused both psychological and physical dependency and its continued use led to criminal acts. The abuse of hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin in the Philippines was limited to the affluent.

48. Because of its strategic location, the Philippines was an important transit area, particularly for heroin exported from Thailand to Europe, the United States and Australia. His Government had declared total war against drug abuse and drug traffickers, pursuing a strategy based on supply and demand reduction and cooperation with other Governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

49. However, owing to its geographical situation as a vast archipelago, the Philippines encountered numerous problems in its drive against drug abuse and drug trafficking. The Philippine legislature was considering an omnibus dangerous-drug bill which would make it easier to prosecute and convict drug criminals.

50. The Philippines had done much work in the area of prevention. A new law included drug prevention and control in school curricula and focused on the adverse effects of drug abuse. In spite of the lack of drug rehabilitation centres, the Philippines had also achieved excellent results in rehabilitation. One centre had the lowest record of relapse in the world. It had devised a programme that aimed at inculcating discipline, and treatment was free of charge.

51. At the regional level, the Philippines continued to play an active role within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and had been instrumental in the adoption of the ASEAN multilateral agreement on extradition for drug offences. As a party to the drug conventions and the 1972 Protocol, the Philippines was committed to the global effort to eradicate the drug problem.

52. Mr. Krenkel (Austria) resumed the Chair.

53. Mr. EL-KHAZEN (Lebanon) underlined the damaging social consequences of drugs, the need for an international strategy and the crucial role of the United Nations. Notwithstanding the difficulties caused by its long civil war, Lebanon had spared no efforts in combating the legacy of drug production and trafficking in areas which had been largely beyond the control of the Lebanese authorities. In addition, it was an active member of UNIDCP. There was also firm cooperation between the Lebanese authorities and INTERPOL, to which they provided information on the current drug situation in Lebanon. Furthermore, the minimum penalty for both drug production and trafficking was to be increased under new laws being drafted.

(Mr. El-Khazen, Lebanon)

54. Foremost among the authorities' concerns in their efforts to regain control over Lebanon was the adoption of measures to combat drugs, which had become widespread during the absence of any central authority in the country. The first such measures, taken in 1991, were to destroy narcotic drug crops, ensure that the land was not re-cultivated for the same purposes and impose maximum penalties on drug traffickers. International authorities had also been consulted regarding substitute crops which would guarantee a legitimate income for farmers.

55. A UNIDCP mission to Lebanon in May 1992 had verified the crop destruction and confirmed the effectiveness of the measures introduced. It had praised the efforts made and recommended that farmers and the security agencies, which had the job of tracking down offenders, should immediately receive concrete assistance. Citing from the report of the mission, he said that opium and hashish production in Lebanon had been prevented during 1992, and saw no reason for any future changes in that situation.

56. In April 1992, a national commission had been formed to combat drug abuse and implement crop substitution programmes. In conjunction with UNIDCP and UNDP in Beirut, it was formulating a comprehensive anti-drug policy, both long-term and short-term. In October 1992, Lebanon and UNIDCP had arranged a meeting of experts from various international organizations to consider projects which could be undertaken by the country with a view to obtaining international assistance in its fight against drugs. The ensuing proposals had then been presented at the international conference on drugs held in Tehran later that month.

57. The foregoing facts were intended to set the record straight following the criticisms voiced at a recent meeting of the Third Committee by the Israeli delegation, which had neglected to state that Israel occupied a large part of Southern Lebanon, was the prime cause of the instability and insecurity in Lebanon, continued to prevent Lebanon from extending its authority to the southern part of the country, and, consequently, was largely responsible for the uncontrolled trafficking which took place in that region and which it had proved incapable of dealing with itself.

58. Moreover, the daily shelling and widespread displacement carried out by Israel made life so difficult for the region's inhabitants that they were forced to seek illegitimate means of earning a livelihood. Circumstances were therefore ripe for the drug cultivation and abuse which were the subject of complaint by the Israeli delegation. Lawfulness would return to the country and activities such as drug trafficking would be eliminated only when the Lebanese authorities once again exercised legitimate control over the whole of Lebanon.

59. In conclusion, he commended the international community and organizations for lending immediate support to the Lebanese Government in its efforts to extend its legitimate control over the country and to implement crop

(Mr. El-Khazen, Lebanon)

substitution programmes. Having pioneered the cultural and economic growth of the region, Lebanon was still capable of playing a positive and creative role, both regionally and internationally. To that end, however, the Government required assistance and support from the international community to enable it to strengthen its effectiveness throughout the country and to implement the socio-economic programmes which would rejuvenate the people and institutions of Lebanon.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
33rd meeting
held on
Monday, 9 November 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 33rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KRENKEL (Austria)

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AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued)

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92-57609 6397S (E)

Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/47/SR.33
1 December 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 95: NARCOTIC DRUGS (continued) (A/47/80-S/23502, A/47/82-S/23512, A/47/210, A/47/312-S/24238, A/47/344, A/47/375-S/24429, A/47/378, 391, 471, and 564)

1. Mr. JAAFARI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the international community recognized the problem of narcotic drugs as one that affected all countries, transcending national borders. The report of the Executive Director and the statements by delegations showed how serious the situation was as a result of the escalation of the drug problem and the negative impact of the production, marketing and abuse of drugs. Beyond the projections for the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse, the General Assembly had at its forty-sixth session approved various resolutions on international drug control, all having to do with the illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and intended to ensure greater international cooperation so as to facilitate the impementation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNIDCP).

2. The Syrian Arab Republic believed that all must share the reponsibility for that fight and form a common front against the scourge of drugs and the concomitant social and economic problems, so as to put an end, as well, to the illicit arms traffic, money laundering and other similar evils. All such efforts must be based on respect for the principles that had guided the United Nations in its fight against the abuse of and illicit traffic in drugs and on greater international cooperation under such conditions as might be established through bilateral and regional mechanisms. He drew attention, in that regard, to the Cartagena Declaration of 1990 and the San Antonio Drug Summit of 1992.

3. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the opinions reflected in the Secretary-General's report (A/47/471) and particularly those related to an integrated strategy taking into account various options for increased economic and agricultural development of poor areas whose livelihood was derived from drug cultivation, as well as the "debt-for-drugs" swap concept, aimed largely at converting the official bilateral debt of heavily indebted producer countries into local currency debt, the servicing of which would be set aside in a national fund for alternative development.

4. The Syrian authorities were working closely with all specialized Arab and international mechanisms for the fight against drugs and had participated in various regional and international forums on the subject.

5. The drug problem was global and there were no differences between producer, consumer and transit countries. The Syrian Arab Republic was a transit country, but the political decision to put an end to that evil was very firm, not only on the internal level but also internationally. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to the 1961, 1971 and 1988 United Nations Conventions.

(Mr. Jaafari, Syrian Arab Republic)

6. The Middle East had suffered for a long time from the Arab-Israeli conflict, since Israel had denied the Palestinian people its legitimate rights. Therefore, the area yearned to achieve a just and lasting peace on the basis of the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations, to achieve development, to raise its people's standard of living and to put an end to the threat of drugs. In that connection, he emphasized the excellent coordination between the Syrian and international drug control authorities.

7. Mr. MAZLAN (Malaysia) said that the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking continued to pose a serious threat to mankind despite the efforts being made at various levels. Poppy cultivation, which had been concentrated in Asia, had spread to Latin America, resulting in an increase in heroin addiction. At the same time, the newfound freedom and democracy in Eastern Europe had opened new markets for drug traffickers, creating serious problems for those countries and the rest of the world.

8. The illicit drug trade was not only causing numerous social problems, but also threatening the human race because of the relationship between drug abuse and AIDS and also posed a threat to the environment because of uncontrolled jungle clearing to provide land for poppy and coca cultivation. Worse still, the drug trade was more and more linked with crime organizations, and the wealth they obtained from it had enabled them to threaten and destabilize legitimately elected Governments. It was also known that drug money had been used to finance the illegal international arms trade and terrorist organizations that could threaten international peace and security. The international community could not be complacent in its fight against those evils.

9. Malaysia welcomed the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and fully supported its important resolutions and decisions and congratulated it on its achievements. As a member of the Commission, Malaysia would continue to play a constructive role to enable the Commission to carry out its duties. At the same time, it urged the Commission to cooperate with other drug control activities within the United Nations system and welcomed its decision to cooperate actively with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

10. A year earlier UNIDCP had been established to integrate and coordinate the functions of the International Narcotics Control Board, the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control. That restructuring had resulted in more effective United Nations coordination. At the international level, drug abuse control must take the form of a multisectoral effort and must take into account the activities of other international organizations and the United Nations regional bodies. Even so, all United Nations agencies should on their own look at the drug abuse dimension of their functions and bring their experience to the Programme.

(Mr. Mazlan, Malaysia)

11. Many innovative approaches had been taken by UNIDCP since its inception, such as dialogue with the World Bank and other regional development banks to encourage introduction of a drug dimension in their lending activities; such initiatives should concentrate on helping member countries to overcome the drug problem and not on exerting pressure on Governments to force them into undertaking programmes that they could not afford.

12. Praise should also be given to various operational activities of UNIDCP, and in particular the establishment of a regional centre for Asia in Bangkok and the findings of the Intergovernmental Expert Group established to study the economic and social consequences of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs.

13. Malaysia had established a National Drug Information System, a central database for monitoring and planning of prevention programmes. Although it would be advantageous if member countries would contribute to the establishment of a United Nations information system on drugs, there would be financial implications to such a project, so that his delegation urged UNIDCP to study those implications and to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the feasibility of establishing such a system.

14. Individual countries must do their part to complement United Nations efforts in the fight against narcotic drugs, especially by reducing the supply of and demand for illicit drugs. It was essential to bring demand under control if supply was to be reduced, and Malaysia regretted the actions of some Governments in putting too much emphasis on efforts to interdict the supply of drugs when more impact could be derived from addressing the demand side through educating the people on the danger of drug abuse as well as assisting Governments to overcome the problems of poverty and economic development and, in that way, to reduce people's dependency on drug production.

15. Mention should also be made of General Assembly resolution 46/101 and all States should be urged to respect the principles set out therein. He deplored illegal measures such as the kidnapping of suspected drug traffickers in one country in order to try them in another. Such behaviour could not be condoned and could only undermine respect for international law in general.

16. His country was playing an active part in combating drug trafficking at the international, regional and national level and, although it had not yet ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, it was attempting to amend the appropriate national laws in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. His Government had taken various measures at the national level and was negotiating bilateral cooperation agreements on the matter with several countries. It was also attempting to secure more technical and expert assistance from international organizations, including the United Nations, and from other Member States.

17. Mr. OUATTARA (Mali) said that, although his country did not produce drugs, it was affected by them, including drugs that grew wild, drugs cultivated illegally in certain regions and drugs of synthetic origin, such as amphetamines and barbiturates, which came from abroad. Although domestic consumption had increased, his country was essentially only a transit route for drugs. Important measures had been taken at the national level to combat drugs, notably the establishment of a multidisciplinary national commission to direct and coordinate all activities in the field and introduce stricter laws.

18. The Department of National Security, the customs services and the police force were responsible for measures to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking and, although notable successes had been achieved in the seizure of drugs, the work of the law enforcement services continued to be limited by lack of resources. His country attached great importance to the training of anti-drug personnel and, in that connection, was extremely grateful for the assistance provided by France and the United States. An equally important aspect of his country's policy was its work in the field of medical treatment and education.

19. His Government was working actively to combat drugs, but national measures were inadequate to deal with a problem that knew no frontiers. To eradicate the scourge of drugs, concerted and coordinated action was needed at world level and, in that regard, he welcomed the establishment of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which brought together all the Organization's structures in the drug field. He was pleased to see that the Programme's activities in Africa had focused on training professionals to help curb demand and on providing States with legal assistance. Given the crucial role of the United Nations in implementing the Global Programme of Action adopted in 1990, he felt that UNIDCP should be given sufficient financial resources to fulfil its task.

20. In conclusion, his country was firmly committed to combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking and supported the efforts of the international community to that end.

21. Mr. Saud AL-DOSARI (Qatar) said that, as pointed out in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 46/103, illicit traffic in drugs posed a serious threat to mankind and to the socio-economic and political systems of all States. A further cause for concern was the growing link between terrorism and drug trafficking. He therefore supported the establishment of an international court to try drug-related crimes.

22. Since all countries, either as producers, consumers or transit routes, suffered the devastation wreaked by drugs, it was vital for the international community to join forces in combating them. He therefore supported the Political Declaration and the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme established by resolution 45/179.

(Mr. Saud Al-Dosari, Qatar)

23. Although his own country had no real drug problem because its citizens respected the principles of the Koran and Islam, it recognized the gravity of the problem, had ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and applied all its provisions.

24. One of the main factors to be borne in mind in dealing with drug trafficking was the large sums of capital involved, which were greater than those involved in arms trafficking and in many cases were used to finance mercenaries and destabilize the established order.

25. The war on drugs must be waged on a number of fronts. First, illicit trafficking must be tackled by enforcing sanctions against traffickers, including confiscation of their assets, in accordance with the relevant international instruments. Second, the problem of consumption must be tackled by using information media to launch awareness and prevention campaigns and by creating jobs for young people. Third, production must be tackled by helping the countries concerned to find substitute crops and raise the living standards of their populations.

26. In that connection, his country supported the agreement signed in May 1991 by the United States of America and Peru, the Global Programme of Action adopted in 1990 and the recent decision by the European Economic Community to open up its markets to certain South American countries.

27. Finally, the only realistic solution to the drug problem lay in sustainable economic and social development and joint efforts on the part of the international community.

28. Miss AL-KHALID (Kuwait) said that drug trafficking was a serious problem of concern to all States because of the adverse effects it had on public health, human resources and social and political systems.

29. Her country had adopted laws in all areas connected with drugs, including rehabilitation of drug addicts and strict punishment of offenders. It had also established a national committee of experts and researchers to study consumption trends, draw up strategies and devise solutions.

30. Although her country was not a transit route, did not produce drugs, and had no real domestic consumption problem, it was now threatened by drug traffic from the north.

31. Her country had signed the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the 1972 Protocol. It was now studying the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, with a view to early ratification, and was adopting measures and enacting laws in order to cooperate with the international community in the field and achieve the international goals that had been set.

(Miss Al-Khalid, Kuwait)

32. Her country reaffirmed its commitment to cooperate with all international bodies working to combat drugs, and considered that the measures they adopted should be stronger and more innovative and should include special programmes aimed at young people.

33. Mr. ELDEEB (Egypt) said that the United Nations had pledged to save succeeding generations from the worst war imaginable: the illicit use of and traffic in narcotic drugs, a scourge which was threatening and destroying the very essence of the human being and civilization.

34. The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had expanded the possibilities for international cooperation in that field. Egypt supported that instrument, as well as the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, and considered that the activities of the Programme should be extended to all regions.

35. Drug-control plans and programmes of action must respect the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law, particularly the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the principle of the sovereignty of States. Moreover, in no case should drugs be made a pretext for resorting to force in order to achieve political objectives.

36. Economic and social development was one of the principal preventive measures, since a higher standard of living and better education increased the capacity of people to resist the temptation of drugs.

37. A five-year plan should be established to implement the Global Programme of Action within the framework of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. Egypt welcomed in particular the activities of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and hoped that it would obtain the necessary resources to provide technical assistance and to establish programmes.

38. His delegation had read with particular interest the reports of the Secretary-General in documents A/47/471 and A/47/378 and fully supported the study being undertaken by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Defence, with support from the United Nations University, with a view to assessing the economic and social consequences of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse.

39. Egypt had implemented all the measures approved by the international community and had established national mechanisms for prevention, suppression and rehabilitation activities. Furthermore, a national plan had been prepared for monitoring the movement of chemical products that had originally been intended for medical and scientific use but which eventually entered the illicit market. Under the plan, measures had also been adopted to prevent the illicit use of drugs through educational programmes that highlighted the negative effects of drugs on the individual, the family and society.

(Mr. Eldeeb, Egypt)

40. Egypt had been one of the earliest States to enact laws against narcotic drugs, since its first law on the prohibition of the importation and cultivation of marijuana dated back to 1879. The most recent law enacted in that field took into account all relevant international provisions, including the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

41. Egyptian legislation on narcotic drugs dealt firmly with all aspects of the problem. The most important objectives of that legislation were to increase the severity of punishment, confiscate the assets of drug traffickers and impose financial penalties, while establishing a special fund and a clinic for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

42. Egypt wished to reiterate the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the fight against narcotic drugs; for that purpose, it had become a party to all legal instruments in that field. In addition, it had been a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs since the creation of the Commission. Since 1988, Egypt had been participating in the work of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

43. In cooperation with the United Nations, training seminars had been organized in Egypt. In Cairo a regional training institute had been established to combat drug trafficking and that institute had organized seminars and practical courses for officials of anti-drug services in North and East Africa, in cooperation with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Egypt welcomed the increase in the number of programmes and the strengthening of international cooperation in that field.

44. Mr. AL-TAI'Y (Oman) expressed satisfaction at the efforts made by United Nations agencies in the fight against narcotic drugs. Oman attached great importance to the problem of drugs, which was a threat to society. It believed that the problem required the adoption of radical measures. While the problem of drugs did not yet constitute a danger to Omani society, the authorities had adopted a vigorous attitude towards it in view of the possible negative consequences for the country if the problem was neglected.

45. The Penal Code of Oman provided for the imposition of prison terms of up to 10 years for drug addicts, and a new bill was being drafted which provided for even more severe penalties, including capital punishment, for those involved in the illicit production of or trafficking in drugs. An agency had been established with responsibility for the fight against drugs and scientific cooperation and research in that field were being expanded.

46. Oman was a signatory to all the international conventions, agreements and protocols that concerned narcotic drugs, including the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

(Mr. Al-Tai'y, Oman)

47. At the regional level, Oman participated, as a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, in the drafting of a single law to combat drug-related crimes and implemented the strategy against drug addiction that had been agreed upon by the Arab countries. It also cooperated with the Office for Drug Control in Arab countries.

48. Since narcotic drugs were a problem common to all mankind, an international solution had to be found in order to reduce both production and consumption. In addition, efforts should be made to confiscate crops and to reduce production. At the same time, drug addicts should be given medical attention and rehabilitation treatment.

49. Mr. Ebrahim AL-DOSARI (Bahrain) appealed to all States and Governments to respect the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. He welcomed United Nations efforts to implement the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the assistance given to national agencies responsible for suppressing the illicit traffic in drugs, and the progress made in implementing international instruments whose objective was to reduce the production and consumption of drugs and to establish treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug addicts. In that connection, the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in that field deserve special mention, as well as the studies being undertaken on reducing the illicit drug traffic.

50. One requirement for success in that field was the strengthening of international cooperation based on full respect for the sovereignty of States and on non-interference and non-use of force in international relations, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/101. The fight against money laundering undertaken within the framework of bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements required international cooperation.

51. Bahrain appealed for assistance to drug-producing States, especially developing countries, so as to offer them other possible sources of income through crop-substitution programmes. It was also important for the media and teaching institutions to support efforts to reduce the demand for narcotic drugs in the schools. Preventive measures should be adopted which took into account the harmful effects of drug abuse on society. To that end, it was important to promulgate legislation and to set up programmes for the implementation of the relevant international instruments.

52. His delegation fully supported paragraphs 51 and 55 of the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session, in which States were requested to accede to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Bahrain was a signatory to all those international instruments.

(Mr. Ebrahim Al-Dosari, Bahrain)

53. While drug addiction was not a social phenomenon in his country, Bahrain had imposed even harsher penalties on those who engaged in illicit drug trafficking, and had adopted preventive measures in conformity with the Islamic Shariah to safeguard the health of the population. Bahrain supported the conclusion of bilateral agreements, as recommended in paragraph 54 of the Global Programme of Action, in order to put an end to illicit drug trafficking; it emphasized the importance of establishing cooperation in that area.

54. Mrs. OGUNLEYE (Nigeria) said that the seriousness with which the United Nations International Drug Control Programme had continued to implement the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs was a sign that the necessary material and financial resources would continue to be devoted to the effective control of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. Her delegation supported efforts to improve the financing of the Programme.

55. Her delegation attached great importance to the question of narcotic drugs, not only because of the harmful effects which drug addiction could have on society, but more importantly, because of the negative image which drug traffickers gave her country. Nigeria had been forced to contend with that problem in the context of traffic in cocaine and opiates, imports of psychotropic substances and traffic in cannabis.

56. In 1989, her Government had established the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, which had focused its efforts on the interdiction of supply from abroad and re-export to other countries. As that task was complex and challenging, the country had been divided into six operational zones in which interdiction and investigation activities were coordinated, and officials had been stationed at international airports, seaports and frontier checkpoints. Three of the zones had become operational in 1990, and plans were under way to commence operations shortly in the remaining zones.

57. Despite the difficult economic circumstances which it faced as a result of the current global recession, Nigeria had not ceased to combat social ills, including the drug problem. In view of the international nature of drug trafficking, the significance of cooperation in efforts to combat it could not be overemphasized. Nigeria expressed its appreciation to those countries which had provided assistance in the form of training and equipment through the programme, and reaffirmed its continuing commitment to dealing with the problem, with the cooperation of the Programme and other countries.

58. Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) said that the only solution to the drug problem was a coordinated response involving joint efforts and policies, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including, in particular, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the prohibition of the threat or use of force.

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

59. Fortunately, Ecuador had always been immune from the onslaught of drug trafficking and its harmful social and economic consequences. Nevertheless, the effects of that plague had begun to be felt. Accordingly, a new Act on Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances had been promulgated, under which the National Council on Narcotic Substances Control had been established. At the regional level, Ecuador had signed the Declaration of San Antonio, which had laid the groundwork for an integral strategy to combat illicit drug trafficking.

60. The Government's firm political will to implement its strict legislation had been reflected in the largest police operation of all time against Ecuador's most notorious criminal syndicate; as a result of that operation, the ringleaders of the country's chief family of drug traffickers had been imprisoned, while at the same time, the magnitude of the country's drug trafficking problem had been revealed.

61. The developed countries should provide the material, educational and financial means required to combat the drug menace systematically, and should increase their efforts to reduce demand, which was the main source of the problem. It was essential to provide the Governments of developing countries with financial and technical assistance in the implementation of crop substitution programmes and the creation of lawful and productive employment; any measures to facilitate access to the international market for exports from those countries would have a direct and positive impact on the elimination of illicit drug trafficking.

62. He emphasized the importance of a system of trade relations which would be more sensitive to the export needs of countries in which legal crops were threatened by others of an illicit nature. In a statement to the General Assembly, the President of Ecuador had noted that it was paradoxical for those countries which were the leading advocates of free-trade policies to have set up tariff barriers against States like Ecuador which, as a consequence, had to contend with enormous difficulties in obtaining access to those markets for their agricultural products.

63. His delegation supported the Mexican proposal that the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly should be resumed for the purpose of considering the current status of multilateral cooperation in the fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. That would make it possible to proceed to the formulation of policies which could allow for a more effective channelling of international cooperation in that area. Such cooperation and support in the area of finance and trade were essential, since the complex machinery of drug trafficking had enormous means at its disposal with which to corrupt and intimidate those responsible for implementing the decisions adopted by international organizations.

64. Although the international community was grappling with many problems such as environmental degradation, external debt, manifestations of extreme nationalism, disarmament and so on, it must remain vigilant in the fight

(Mr. Ayala Lasso, Ecuador)

against the plague of drug trafficking, which was dealing severe blows to development, democracy, economic stability, domestic peace and human rights. Accordingly, his delegation reaffirmed its support for the Colombian President's proposal for the convening of a United Nations conference on illicit drugs.

65. Mr. SHOOGUFAN (Afghanistan) said that the Programme's new approach to the drug control issue and its important role in coordinating international activities deserved the support and appreciation of all.

66. After 14 years of war, Afghanistan had become an easy target for those who encouraged the cultivation of the opium poppy; that had led to an increase in the cultivation of illicit crops and the number of addicts. The return of 6 million refugees and 2 million displaced persons had further complicated the situation. Accordingly, measures had been adopted to fight drug cultivation and trafficking: Afghanistan had ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and a law concerning the cultivation of the opium poppy and cannabis, drug trafficking and the rehabiliation of drug addicts had been enacted. In addition, a national commission had been established to prepare a national plan to combat narcotic drugs, to coordinate the programmes and activities of the national organizations and government departments concerned and to call upon the Governments of the region, other Governments and international organizations to assist Afghanistan in its efforts, particularly, in the promotion of crop substitution programmes in the country.

67. The Office of the Programme in Kabul had reported some reduction in cultivation in certain provinces, thanks to the coordinated efforts of community leaders, the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations supported by international donors.

68. The fight against drug cultivation, trafficking and abuse and the treatment of narcotic drug addicts in Afghanistan required measures at different levels. At the national level, the Government was working on a plan to help farmers plant alternative crops; demand reduction was also important, and the Government had been carrying out a national awareness campaign. At the regional level, his country had signed two bilateral agreements, one with the Russian Federation and the other with India. At the international level, the expansion of UNIDCP offices in Kabul and other parts of the country and its projects for the future would improve the situation in Afghanistan.

69. In conclusion, he said that the present scale of the problem required sincere political will on the part of Member States and global efforts of the international community, in close cooperation with the United Nations.

70. Mr. ALI (Iraq) said that there were very few cases of drug abuse or illicit trafficking in Iraq, a situation which could be explained by social and moral considerations and by the strict legislation which enabled

(Mr. Ali, Iraq)

authorities to impose very severe sanctions. Moreover, the use of licit drugs was fully controlled.

71. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General, who had stated in paragraph 12 of his report (A/47/378) that the international fight against drug trafficking should not in any way justify violation of the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and international law. That fight must not be used as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of States or violating their sovereignty or territorial integrity. The responsibility for combating drug traffic and abuse was a collective one. International cooperation and the exchange of information on trafficking and money laundering would help to reduce that threat and to put an end to the scourge.

72. Iraq held the view that the insecurity and instability which existed in certain countries as a result of the interference by others in their internal affairs and the creation of zones where violence prevailed encouraged traffickers to utilize those zones to distribute drugs to other regions of the world. His country was a party to most of the conventions aimed at combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and had become a member of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East.

73. Mrs. ROMULUS (Haiti) said that illicit drug traffic accounted for no small share of international trade, it being estimated at over $500 billion a year. It was sad to note that that money contributed to the destruction of the human race, inasmuch as it fed wars, armed militias, financed superficially respectable businesses, and was used to bribe judges, lawyers, police and others. The phenomenon had taken on such dimensions that international cooperation had become indispensable. Collective action must be taken in order to ensure that an increasingly strong, systematic and effective effort could be sustained.

74. One must ask, however, whether the most fervent advocates of that crusade would also be willing to combat the use of tobacco and alcohol? Measures should be taken to prohibit advertising for those products, which was now directed at the developing countries and, within them, at children, teenagers and women of childbearing age. The attempt to create among children and teenagers a lifelong dependence on nicotine was unforgivable, and illegal sales of tobacco to minors were higher by far than illegal sales of alcohol and hard drugs; furthermore, they caused a higher death rate. It was essential to fight against tobacco addiction; the statistics of certain countries showed that reducing the number of smokers made it possible to reduce the death rate as well. The public health resources used for the treatment of tobacco- and alcohol-related diseases and disabilities would be enough to pay for a prevention programme, and would even offset the loss of tax revenues from those products.

(Mrs. Romulus, Haiti)

75. Far from supporting the campaign to legalize drugs, her delegation concurred with others in attaching great importance to the struggle against that scourge, provided that a sense of proportion was maintained and that, once a valid diagnosis was made, all nations took the necessary measures to support the Organization's work in that area. Consequently, it was necessary to strengthen the measures available to the United Nations for that struggle and to engage consumer and producer countries in a real dialogue.

76. In conclusion, she said that her delegation urged States to accept the proposal made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-fifth session, to the effect that forfeited property or proceeds should be contributed to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to assist it in carrying out its mandate.

77. Mr. FONDAUMIERE (Director, Treaty Implementation and Legal Affairs Division, United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that, in general, the strategy outlined by the Executive Director in his introductory statement met with the approval of Member States. The Programme had started to modify its work programme, particularly in the field of technical cooperation, to translate that strategy into action. Of course, the process would be gradual, as the Programme had commitments for its ongoing activities; as indicated by the Executive Director, it would be necessary to avoid abrupt changes of direction, as they could cause serious difficulties to many of the Programme's partners.

78. He wished to reiterate that paying more attention and committing more resources to demand reduction did not necessarily mean lessening efforts in other areas of activity, but rather having a more balanced approach between supply and demand reduction.

79. As was well understood by most speakers, in order to have a lasting and sustainable impact, given the limited resources available, the major international funding institutions must be encouraged to include that so-called "drug dimension" in their own policies, programming and operational activities. Similarly, bilateral donors must be encouraged to plan their activities in the drug-control field in close consultation with the Programme and host countries. It was to be hoped that both those actions would increase the level of support for drug-control programmes and their effectiveness.

80. In conclusion, he re-emphasized the need for the Programme to concentrate on the delivery of its many and complex tasks, for which it needed time, stability and political support. The Programme could not afford a slackening of its efforts, both at the national and international levels. Drug control must remain a priority or the price to pay would be dear in terms of social, human and economic costs.